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THE END OF THE “POST”?
BELARUSIAN ETHNOLOGY
AND ANTHROPOLOGY
AFTER THE SOVIET ERA

ETHNOLOGIA POLONA



INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY
POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

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In March 1925, a separate structural unit, the Ethnographic Commission, was established at the Institute of Belarusian Culture in Minsk. Therefore, the release of the “Belarusian” issue of the journal *Etnologia Polona* coincides with the de facto centenary of Belarusian academic ethnology. While this was not the original intention, the issue ultimately has a symbolic and commemorative dimension. Our question has been: How diverse are the approaches among ethnologists, anthropologists, ethnographers – whatever they call themselves – who are engaged with Belarus both as researchers as well as citizens? What issues do they address? What methods do they use? What theoretical fields do they refer to?

We have sought to preserve and convey what can be called the Belarusian intellectual context, in which researchers move and of which they are a part. We also wanted to show the spectrum of this intellectual context as it is reflected in the differences between the modes of writing in articles in this volume, their themes, logic, methodology and theoretical approaches. We do not want to speculate about the relations of those differences to factors such as generational differences or the greater or lesser involvement of particular authors in Western academia. We leave all this to attentive readers. Our goal is to show the spectrum in which the academics who base their work on research in Belarus move.

Why does the title of this issue, *The End of Post?*, end with a question mark? The prefix “post-” often denotes a theoretical or historical departure from the previous dominant paradigm. Our title signifies not only a recognition of the need for change in Belarusian ethnology and anthropology but also an actual shift in methodology, subject matter and critical reflection on the role of the past period. Still, we did not seek to conceptualise the development of Belarusian scholarship in a unilinear, directed manner. The question mark signifies the ambiguity or impossibility of determining a specific chronological framework for the post- related changes.

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