



Foundation to Preserve the History of Maidan

Фонд збереження історії

Фонд сохранения истории Майдана

МАЙДАНУ

## Maidan Oral History Archive

### I. Title of the Data Collection

Maidan Oral History Archive

### II. Creator/ Author of the Data Collection

The Foundation to Preserve the History of Maidan (FPHM) in collaboration with the National Memory Institute (UINP), Kyiv, Ukraine, see <http://www.maidan-memorial.org/>

### III. Guiding research interest and paradigm (i.e., epistemological approach)

The main goal of the Maidan Oral History Archive is to collect an as wide range as possible of oral history interviews with participants in the Maidan movement in Ukraine in 2013-2014. Started in March 2014 focusing mainly on medical/psychological services at Maidan, it soon became a full-scale oral history program that encompasses hundreds of interviews, some of them up to nine hours in length. Our research interest is to collect as much first-hand knowledge about the events of possible, not only searching for facts, but in particular searching for information on the impact the events had on people. Maidan changed lives fundamentally, not only for those who were killed, but also for those who came out of Maidan and in some cases were put on a totally different life trajectory. Some built new careers, relationships, others were so traumatized by the events that their lives will never be of the same quality as before.

### IV. The sources of the data

The collection contains 591 interviews which come from two main sources: those made by the Foundation to Preserve the History of Maidan (FPHM) and those made by the Ukrainian National Memory Institute (UINP).



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## V. Date of the creation of the Data Collection

The interviews in the collection were all made between March 2014 and December 2017. However, a considerable number are still in the process of being transcribed.

## VI. Time period covered by the Data Collection

The data collection concerns the whole time-period of Maidan, November 2013-February 2014, but also some of the follow-up events, both in relation to the effect Maidan had on those interviewed and, mostly indirectly, the situation in the contested regions (Donetskaya oblast, Luhanskaya oblast, Crimea) following Maidan.

## VII. The way the Data Collection has been compiled

The Foundation to reserve the History of Maidan established a base in Kyiv in the spring of 2014, and has been working since using that base on a daily basis. Most of the interviews have been conducted there, in a specially arranged studio.<sup>1</sup> Short excerpts from 95 interviews (each only 4 minutes long) have been published online, see <http://www.maidan-memorial.org/periode-1/>

Potential interviewees have been recruited via social media, contacts, hearsay, and very often people contacted the foundation on their own accord. The Ukrainian National Memory Institute has been operating with the same approach from its own base, using equipment borrowed from the FPHM, yet in many cases their recordings are of lower quality due to the fact that they worked with people who did not have full professional training.

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<sup>1</sup> Additional information provided by the responsible producer: Запись проводилась камерой Panasonic HC-X920, диктофоном Zoom-N1, в помещении Ассоциации психиатров Украины, г.Киев.

Способ составления данных – индивидуальное полуструктурированное интервью, состоящее из трех основных блоков. 1 часть – биографические данные интервьюируемого. 2 часть – нарративное или диалоговое интервью (в зависимости от интервьюируемого). 3 часть – структурированное интервью по опроснику.

Интервью проводилось на языке, который выбирал интервьюируемый.

По каждому интервьюируемому была создана отдельная папка, в которую вошли следующие данные: оригинальный видеофайл без монтажа (формат – avchd), ужатый видеофайл без монтажа для превью (формат – mp4), аудиофайл с диктофона (формат – mp3), фото интервьюируемого (формат – jpg), разрешение на обработку персональных данных и интервью, текстовая расшифровка интервью (формат – doc), личные материалы интервьюируемого.



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## VIII. Detailed description of the Data Collection

The collection contains a total of 591 interviews with participants in the Maidan protests, which took place in Ukraine from November 2013 to February 2014.

149 guided (semi-structured) interviews were taken in the months following the events and 442 oral history interviews (= open-ended studio interviews) were conducted from 2014 to 2017.

The semi-structured interviews are mostly audio interviews, the oral history interviews have been recorded as video files in TV quality.

The collection comprises only those interviews where the respondents have agreed to full publication.

The collection contains

- a list of all respondents with basic personal data and information about the interview;
- transcripts or abstracts (as available) of the interviews in Ukrainian and Russian;
- a trailer which presents an introduction to the project and some small sample excerpts from interviews.

The full interviews, comprising several terabytes, cannot be uploaded for technical reasons, but are accessible at the Research Centre for East European Studies, University of Bremen, Germany.

## IX. Context dependence of the data

Unfortunately, the material in the archive is less multi-faceted as desired. The fact is that those on the “other side” (e.g. titushki, representatives of the army of the Ministry of the Interior as well as Berkut riot police) refused to appear before camera and tell their story out of fear for (judicial) reprisals. Everything possible has been done to recruit such interviewees, however with very little success.



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## **X. Handling of empirical challenges such as sampling**

In the case of our Madan Oral History Archive there has been no process of pre-selection or sampling. Of course, there were key persons involved who we tried to interview in order to make the archive as complete as possible, on the other hand we were very interested in the voices of those who are usually not heard, the rank-and-file Maidanovtsy and their relatives who are usually not interviewed by media. By doing this we hope to balance the picture and make it more diverse, multi-faceted and more reliable.

## **XI. Handling of ethical issues related to copyright and data dissemination**

In preparing the archive we have been extremely conscious of ethical issues. In the majority of cases we obtained consent and release forms from those who were interviewed and we realize that in the case when such forms are absent the interview cannot be used by researchers. Interviews where consent is not properly documented have not been included in this collection and have not been counted towards the 591 interviews.

We followed all the ethical guidelines of the international oral history societies, both in making the interviews and in conserving/using them.

Robert van Voren, July 2017 (updated October 2021)