

Kateryna Budz
PhD in History
Researchers at Risk Fellow
at the University of Edinburgh

Final report

Visegrad Scholarship at the Open Society Archives

Research project: "Ukrainian Greek Catholics in the Underground: Faith on the Margins of Soviet Society (1946-1989)"

My primary goal for the research at the Vera and Donald Blinken Open Society Archives was to collect material for my book project "Ukrainian Greek Catholics in the Underground: Faith on the Margins of Soviet Society (1946-1989)." The monograph builds on my doctoral dissertation entitled "The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Galicia (1946-1968): Strategies of Survival and Resistance in the Underground." Since my PhD thesis did not focus on the period of 1969-1989, I needed to conduct additional archival research on the Ukrainian Greek Catholics' opposition to the Soviet regime during the late Soviet period.

Prior to my arrival in Budapest, I consulted the OSA catalogues and sought advice from the OSA staff in order to identify the materials relevant to my topic. Based on this, I decided to look at the HU OSA 300 Records of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Research Institute, with a focus on the Soviet Red Archives, religious samizdat collections, and biographical files of the leading Greek Catholic activists. My aim was to situate the opposition of the clandestine Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) in a broader context of the dissident movement in the Soviet Union.

The Research Institute of the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty has a rich collection of materials, including clippings from the German, American, British, French, and Italian newspapers. These periodicals provide an important insight into what the Western observers knew about the situation behind the "Iron Curtain." Particularly important for my study are clippings from the official Soviet press. Thus, even forty years after the alleged self-dissolution of the UGCC (1946), the Soviet propaganda actively re-produced the post-war rhetoric. The struggle with the "non-existent" Greek Catholics in the Soviet periodicals suggests that the Church was not only alive but also very active.

The Soviet Red Archives collections (1953 - 1994) provide a more general context to my research, shedding light on the Moscow-Vatican rapprochement, ecumenical dialogue, and events connected to celebration of the millennium of the Christianization of Rus'. These materials also highlight the importance of such factors as pontificate of Pope John Paul II and Gorbachev's perestroika for the legalization of the UGCC.

The OSA collections allow to study in detail the perceptions of the dialogue between the Vatican and Moscow both in Europe and in the Soviet Union, as well as negative reactions of the Ukrainian Catholic diaspora worldwide. Moreover, the broader geopolitical context allows to go beyond the confessional and geographic limits of my research, identifying connections across different Soviet republics. Thus, some materials

describe the situation of the Catholic Church in Moldavian, Lithuanian and Central Asian republics, which provides a rich context to the study of the religious situation in Ukraine.

In turn, Samizdat collections (1956 - 1994) contain specific materials pertaining to the Greek Catholics, including the documents of the Initiative Group for the Protection of the Rights of Believers and the Church.

On the one hand, the movement for the legalization of the Greek Catholic Church seems to have been a part of a broader dissident movement in Soviet Ukraine, as cases of such vocal lay leaders as Iosyp Terelya and Vasyl Kobryn demonstrate. On the other hand, the Catholic activists in Lithuania and Ukraine had their separate samizdat chronicles. Overall, the actions on behalf of the Ukrainian Catholic Church are largely absent from the mainstream samizdat of Soviet dissidents.

The proposed project falls under the sub-topic “Un/silencing suppressed voices: detecting instances of epistemic violence/harm and recreating narratives of people pushed at the margins of society (ethnic, religious or sexual minorities, people with disabilities) in Cold War and transitional archives.” While the official Soviet narrative claimed that the UGCC voluntarily joined the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) in 1946, the Ukrainian Greek Catholics consistently challenged this epistemic violence by their words and deeds. By sending petitions to the Soviet authorities and self-published materials to the West, the Ukrainian Greek Catholics undermined the official narrative about the alleged “non-existence” of the UGCC in the USSR. By conducting religious services, despite arrests and persecutions, the clandestine Greek Catholics increased the visibility of their denomination and contributed to survival of the Church in the underground.

Appendix 1.

The non-exhaustive list of consulted materials includes the following files:

**300 Records of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Research Institute
5 Analytic Research Department
151 Biographical Files of Elizabeth Teague**

HU OSA 300-5-151-66
HU OSA 300-5-151-136

**300 Records of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Research Institute
80 Soviet Red Archives
1 Old Code Subject Files**

HU OSA 300-80-1-33
HU OSA 300-80-1-89
HU OSA 300-80-1-120
HU OSA 300-80-1-121
HU OSA 300-80-1-122
HU OSA 300-80-1-184
HU OSA 300-80-1-256
HU OSA 300-80-1-293

HU OSA 300-80-1-294
HU OSA 300-80-1-295
HU OSA 300-80-1-582
HU OSA 300-80-1-644
HU OSA 300-80-1-645
HU OSA 300-80-1-651
HU OSA 300-80-1-652
HU OSA 300-80-1-810
HU OSA 300-80-1-811
HU OSA 300-80-1-817
HU OSA 300-80-1-823
HU OSA 300-80-1-881
HU OSA 300-80-1-882
HU OSA 300-80-1-884
HU OSA 300-80-1-885
HU OSA 300-80-1-1076

300 Records of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Research Institute
80 Soviet Red Archives
6 New Code Republics Files

HU OSA 300-80-6-74

300 Records of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Research Institute
85 Samizdat Archives
9 Published Samizdat

HU OSA 300-85-9-5
HU OSA 300-85-9-78
HU OSA 300-85-9-118
HU OSA 300-85-9-122
HU OSA 300-85-9-124
HU OSA 300-85-9-133
HU OSA 300-85-9-143

300 Records of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Research Institute
85 Samizdat Archives
12 Subject Files

HU OSA 300-85-12-236
HU OSA 300-85-12-237
HU OSA 300-85-12-238

300 Records of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Research Institute
85 Samizdat Archives
13 Biographical Files

HU OSA 300-85-13-76

**300 Records of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Research Institute
85 Samizdat Archives
38 Issues of Bulletin "V"**

HU OSA 300-85-38-1

**300 Records of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Research Institute
85 Samizdat Archives
39 Unpublished Samizdat By Subject**

HU OSA 300-85-39-13

**300 Records of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Research Institute
85 Samizdat Archives
44 Unpublished Samizdat: Subject Files**

HU OSA 300-85-44-9

HU OSA 300-85-44-30

HU OSA 300-85-44-32