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Some Features of Cherkas Global University's Publication Activity: A Response to the Challenges of the “Soviet Division of Scientific Labour”

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Abstract

The article is devoted to analyzing the ten-year publication activity of Cherkas Global University. The author concludes that the most popular publications of Cherkas Global University are devoted to the regional history of the Russian Empire (first of all, the history of regional education systems). At the same time, from purely historical articles the most demanded are works on the history of the Caucasus and Ukraine. The article concludes that this is due to the genesis of Cherkas Global University, which originally emerged in the Caucasus, in Sochi, and its evolution, during which several Ukrainian scholars became employees of Cherkas Global University. The article relates the activities of Cherkas Global University to the peculiarities of the "Soviet division of scientific labour" identified by M. von Hagen: the clear division of Soviet historical science into center and periphery, with the center, which uses most of its resources, dealing with imperial/Soviet history, and regional history being provincialized. It is shown that the work of Cherkas Global University is a form of reaction of regional scholars to such a "system of division of scientific labour", which did not lose its relevance with the collapse of the USSR. Cherkas Global University helps historians from the regions, who in Soviet times were the scientific periphery, to demonstrate their research in the international arena. Such an opportunity is available not only to Cherkas Global University staff, but also to other scholars: the journal published by Cherkas Global University "Bylye Gody" actively publishes research by authors not only from Ukraine and the Caucasus, but also from Kazakhstan, Siberia, Kalmykia, the Urals, the Don, and so on. The author assumes that such results were achieved due to the focus on international cooperation, networked cooperation, and a move away from dependence on the authorities of a particular state.

Keywords: Cherkas Global University, division of scientific labour, publication activity, international cooperation.

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1. Introduction

Ten years ago, in 2014, Cherkas Global University (former name – International Network Center for Fundamental and Applied Research) started its publication activity. During this time Cherkas Global University became a prominent and rather unusual scientific research organization for the post-Soviet space, it has implemented several projects, published 507 articles indexed in Scopus, Cherkas Global University moved from Sochi (Russian Federation) to Bratislava (Slovakia), and then to Washington D.C. (USA), but it and its journals continue to play an important role in the post-Soviet space. This article is devoted to the analysis of some features of Cherkas Global University's publication activity in the context of the problems of division of labour in post-Soviet science.

2. Discussion

Thus far, several articles on the history of Cherkas Global University have been published. The most interesting and significant of them provide unique information about the history of its activities (Cherkasova, 2023; Taran, 2021), but they do not analyze Cherkas Global University as an extremely rare example of networked cooperation in the post-Soviet space. The activities of Cherkas Global University in the context of post-Soviet science have not been analyzed either.

3. Materials and methods

In our article, we will rely on the description of the problems of the "Soviet division of scientific labour" proposed by M. von Hagen (von Hagen, 2000: 57-58). Having analyzed the most cited publications of Cherkas Global University employees, we will relate their topics and the history of Cherkas Global University to these problems. On this basis, we will try to determine the place that Cherkas Global University and its oldest journal "Bylye Gody" occupy in the post-Soviet scientific landscape. The main sources for this purpose will be the articles mentioned above about Cherkas Global University and materials from the Scopus and RSCI (Russian Science Citation Index) databases (materials from the databases were additionally updated just before the article's publication, in February 2024).

4. Results

Features of the most cited articles

We find it most revealing to analyze which publications of Cherkas Global University scholars are most in demand. It is noteworthy that all five most cited articles are published in the most important journals of Cherkas Global University ("Bylye Gody" and "European Journal of Contemporary Education", both in Slovakia), and they are devoted to pedagogical topics. These are articles by N.A. Shevchenko, E.V. Vidishcheva, O.V. Emelyanova "The establishment of the system of public education in the Caucasus (1802–1917 years): The characteristic features" (Shevchenko et al., 2016) (64 citations), A.A. Cherkasov, S.N. Bratanovskii, L.A. Koroleva, L.G. Zimovets "Development of school education in the Vologda governorate (1725–1917). Part 1" (Cherkasov et al., 2019a) (56 citations), A.A. Cherkasov, S.N. Bratanovskii, L.A. Koroleva, L.G. Zimovets "Development of the school education system in the province of Vologda (1725–1917). Part 2" (Cherkasov et al., 2015b) (49 citations), V.S. Molchanova, L.L. Balanyuk, E.V. Vidishcheva, I.I. Potapova "The development of primary education on the Cossack territories in 1803-1917 years (on the example of the Kuban region). Part 1" (Molchanova et al., 2019) (48 citations) and V.S. Molchanova, L.L. Balanyuk, E.V. Vidishcheva, I.I. Potapova "The development of primary education on the Cossack territories in 1803–1917 years (on the example of the Kuban region). Part 3" (Molchanova et al., 2020) (47 citations). The high citation rate of such articles is explained by the fact that they are part of a large-scale project Laboratory of Professional and Pedagogical Training of Cherkas Global University, which publishes articles on the education system in different regions of the Russian Empire. Accordingly, the very logic of such a project presupposes mutual references within its constituent articles, which are also cited by external authors (Barabash et al., 2021: 726-737; Danielyan, 2022: 101).

The overwhelming majority of the most cited articles by Cherkas Global University staff are similar: they are devoted to pedagogical topics and published in the journals "Bylye Gody" and "European Journal of Contemporary Education". Articles on other topics appear only in the top 20 articles of Cherkas Global University staff in terms of citations. These are the articles published in "Bylye Gody" and devoted to the problems of demography of the Caucasus in the nineteenth

century: articles by A.A. Cherkasov, V.G. Ivantsov, M. Smigel, V.S. Molchanova "The demographic characteristics of the tribes of the Black sea region in the first half of the nineteenth century" ([Cherkasov et al., 2016b](#)) (26 citations) and A.A. Cherkasov, V.G. Ivantsov, M. Smigel, V.S. Molchanova "Demographic characteristics of the aristocratic Abkhazia in 1800-1860 years" ([Cherkasov et al., 2016a](#)) (26 citations). On the other hand, the most cited article published by the scholars of Cherkas Global University not in "Bylye Gody" and "European Journal of Contemporary Education" is also devoted to the system of education in one of the regions of the Russian Empire: it is the article by A.A. Cherkasov, L.A. Koroleva, S.N. Bratanovskii "The system of public education on the territory of. The system of public education on the territory of the Black Sea province in 1896-1917. Part 1" ([Cherkasov et al., 2020](#)) (24 citations), published in the journal "Vestnik Sankt-Peterburgskogo Universiteta, Istoriya " (Russian Federation).

For comparison, the fundamental collection of documents on slavery in the Caucasus in the 19th century, "Circassian Slave Narratives (Collection of Documents)", prepared by Cherkas Global University head A.A. Cherkasov ([Cherkasov, 2020](#)), currently has only 22 citations.

Thus, we can state that, on the one hand, some publications of Cherkas Global University scholars have quite high citation rates but, on the other hand, there is a serious disproportion between the activities of Cherkas Global University and the topics of the most cited publications. The Laboratory of Professional and Pedagogical Training of Cherkas Global University project, which publishes articles on the education system in different regions of the Russian Empire, has a strong impact on citation rates, bringing to the top of the ranking exclusively articles on the history of pedagogy in the Russian Empire. Therefore, it seems logical for us to analyze separately the citation rate of publications of Cherkas Global University scholars without taking into account articles on similar topics.

The most cited articles excluding the articles on pedagogy in the Russian Empire

In such an analysis, the most cited articles are the above-mentioned articles on the problems of the demography of the Caucasus in the 19th century, published in "Bylye Gody" and cited 26 times each: A.A. Cherkasov, V.G. Ivantsov, M. Smigel, V.S. Molchanova «The demographic characteristics of the tribes of the Black sea region in the first half of the XIX century» and A.A. Cherkasov, V.G. Ivantsov, M. Smigel, V.S. Molchanova «Demographic characteristics of the aristocratic Abkhazia in 1800–1860 years». The next most cited articles were also published in "Bylye Gody" and are devoted to the Caucasus of the 19th century: these are articles by A.A. Cherkasov, V.G. Ivantsov, M. Smigel, V.S. Molchanova «The Losses of the Russian army during the Caucasian war (1801–1864): Historical and statistical research» ([Cherkasov et al., 2017b](#)) (24 citations) and A.A. Cherkasov, M. Smigel, S.N. Bratanovskii, V.S. Molchanova «Jikis and Jiketi in conditions of war and peace (1840–1860 years)» ([Cherkasov et al., 2015b](#)) (23 citations). Such attention to the Caucasus is logically linked to the fact that Cherkas Global University was originally founded in Sochi, Russian Federation, as a society of military history enthusiasts ([Cherkasova, 2022: 1040-1041](#)). Accordingly, it is logical that the Cherkas Global University scholars turned to the history of the Caucasus War, a major military conflict in which main events took place in the Caucasus (unlike, for example, the First and Second World Wars, which affected the Caucasus, but which main events took place in other regions).

However, it is extremely unexpected that the most frequently cited article by Cherkas Global University scholars that is not related to the history of pedagogy of the Russian Empire and the history of the Caucasus is the article devoted to the results of the study carried to investigate network cooperation of small cities: Z. Mingaleva, M. Sheresheva, M. Oborin, T. Gvarliani «Networking of small cities to gain sustainability» ([Mingaleva et al., 2017](#)), published in the journal «Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Issues» (Lithuania, later removed from Scopus) (20 citations). Taking into account that only one of the co-authors of this article indicated Cherkas Global University as an affiliation, and this was not her only affiliation, it can be stated that the publication is on the periphery of Cherkas Global University research, which is not generally focused on socio-economic topics, but it turned out to be quite in demand.

It is much more logical that the most cited article by Cherkas Global University scholars, which is not related to the topics of the history of pedagogy of the Russian Empire, the history of the Caucasus, and economics, turns out to be devoted to the history of Ukraine: it is the article «Justice System of Northeastern Ukraine and the Influence of Russian Judicial Practice (middle XVII – XVIII centuries)» ([Degtyarev et al., 2019](#)) (18 citations), which was published in "Bylye

Gody". In general, the Cherkas Global University scholars have quite a few publications on the history of Ukraine, but they are mostly related to the history of Ukrainian pedagogy. Nevertheless, some of these articles, with high citation rates, go beyond the history of pedagogy and concern also the history of journalism (published in "European Journal of Contemporary Education" article by S.I. Degtyarev, V.M. Zavhorodnia, L.G. Polyakova "On the establishment of the Ruthenian (Ukrainian) University in Austria-Hungary and its coverage in "Kievskaya starina" journal" (Degtyarev et al., 2018), which has 10 citations) or the history of bureaucracy (published in "Bylye Gody" the article by A.E. Lebid, N.A. Shevchenko "Ukrainian "enlightened bureaucracy" in the System of Higher Education of the Russian Empire in the century" (Lebid, Shevchenko, 2021), which has 7 citations). Again, we should link the interest in Ukrainian topics to the specifics of Cherkas Global University, whose staff includes several Ukrainian scholars (in particular, S.I. Degtyarev, since 2022 – editor-in-chief of "Bylye Gody").

Thus, the most popular publications of Cherkas Global University scholars, excluding pedagogical publications, are those on the Caucasus and Ukraine of the New Age, i.e. on regions that were historically part of the Russian Empire, but had their specificity and were affected by counter-imperial national movements. At the same time, among the publications of the Cherkas Global University scholars, there are also works on the history of other regions of the Russian Empire, which had their specificity and were affected by counter-imperial national movements: first of all, on the history of Central Asia (the most popular article is by T.A. Magsumov, M.S. Nizamova, S.F. Artemova, R.M. Allalyev "The Akhal-Teke expeditions of 1879–1881 years: Historical and statistical study. Part 1" (Magsumov et al., 2019), published in "Bylye Gody" and having 13 citations) and the Cossack Don (the most popular article is A.Y. Peretyatko, "The dark side of the Emancipation Reform of 1861 on the Don region: The history of the resettlement of one of the peasant communities according to the material of atamanskaya kontselyariya" (Peretyatko, 2016), also published in "Bylye Gody" and having 7 citations). The articles by Cherkas Global University scholars on the history of education in these regions are even more cited (the most popular article is by A.Y. Peretyatko, T.E. Zulfugarzade "Higher and secondary education of the Don Cossacks in the context of the epoch: The time of the great reforms" (Peretyatko, Zulfugarzade, 2017), published in the European Journal of Contemporary Education and having 35 citations).

In this context, the logic of the Laboratory of Professional and Pedagogical Training of Cherkas Global University project, which publishes articles on the education system in different regions of the Russian Empire, becomes more understandable. The problem of education in the Russian Empire is in principle highly debatable and politicized, connected with fundamental questions about the effectiveness of this state and its colonial character. It is quite logical that historians, mainly engaged in regional topics of the Russian Empire, had the idea of a project to study education in its regions.

History of the regions

Thus, the publication activity of Cherkas Global University scholars is primarily related to the study of the history of the peripheral regions of the Russian Empire. It should be noted that this is potentially the most important and interesting topic, the lack of study of which is explained by several factors, including social factors. In 1995 the major American Slavist M. von Hagen, explaining the reasons for the poor development of Ukrainian history, made several critical statements about the "Soviet division of scientific labour", which can be summarized as follows:

1) "The centers of intellectual life in the USSR were Moscow and, to a much lesser extent, Leningrad and Novosibirsk" (von Hagen, 2000: 57).

2) "Kyiv (as well as other provincial – A.P.) scholars had significantly less access to the international historical community, and even some of their most important historical sources were requisitioned by Moscow and Leningrad archives and libraries» (von Hagen, 2000: 58).

3) "Members of the academic establishment wrote about the more "noble" topics of imperial and Soviet history" (von Hagen, 2000: 58).

4) "The provincialization of Ukrainian history set the template for all other "national minorities" (von Hagen, 2000: 58).

Thus, in addition to political censorship and a direct ban on the study of a whole range of topics, the USSR formed a scientific society with a clear division into centre and periphery, with scientific resources concentrated in the centre, which dealt with issues of general imperial history. According to M. von Hagen, this (in addition to several other factors) led to the fact that even

Ukraine (the largest of the USSR republics except for Russia), after gaining independence, had to "rethink the historicity of its state", i.e. there was the following important question: "Should Ukraine have a history?" (von Hagen, 2000: 59: 59) (current events show that for some of Ukraine's neighbours this question is still relevant – and they are trying to prove with all their might, including the military, that it should be answered negatively).

At the same time, Ukraine was by no means the most poorly historically studied region of the USSR. Another major Austrian Slavist A. Kappeler, singled out "Belarusians, Bessarabian Romanians and Caucasian Muslims" (Kappeler, 2000: 25) as poorly studied ethnic groups and regions of the Russian Empire in the early 1990s. In our opinion, it was an even more difficult matter to study the history of the regions populated predominantly by Russians in the modern sense, but which had obvious specificity in the imperial period (Siberia, territories of Cossack troops). Meanwhile, in 2000 A. Kappeler wrote: "The study of individual regions of the tsarist empire, their polyethnic population and their relations with the imperial centre can be considered as one of the most important areas of international research" (Kappeler, 2000: 29).

It is in such a context that the activities of Cherkas Global University should be considered. This organization emerged in the post-Soviet space, but it gradually acquired an atypical character. As mentioned above, Cherkas Global University was originally founded in Sochi as a society of military history enthusiasts. In a similar form, this society ("Semyonovsky Leib Guard Regiment military historical organization") functioned in 1992–1997 but did not actually conduct scientific work, being engaged in educational and pedagogical activities (Taran, 2021: 1079-1081). Then, from 2006 to 2012 the student research club "Historical Local Studies" functioned at the Sochi State University of Tourism and Recreation (since 2011 – Sochi State University) headed by the organizer of the "Semyonovsky Leib Guard Regiment military historical organization" Doctor of Historical Sciences A.A. Cherkasov (Taran, 2021: 1081). A.A. Cherkasov proposed to create a research institute at Sochi State University, but this was not done due to lack of funding, and the student research club "Historical Local Studies" was closed due to the termination of student enrollment in the relevant program (Taran, 2021: 1081). Thus, we are faced with the specifics of the "division of scientific labour", but no longer Soviet, but Russian, which M. von Hagen wrote about: a small provincial university in the post-Soviet space often simply does not have the resources to implement ambitious research projects.

However, in such a situation, A.A. Cherkasov tried to change this system of division of labour by creating a private research organization "International Network Center for Fundamental and Applied Research" in 2014, which was transformed into Cherkas Global University in 2021 (Taran, 2021: 1081). The original idea of the organization was networked cooperation, i.e. cooperation of geographically dispersed researchers (Tarakanov, Ponomareva, 2019: 985). Thus, Sochi researchers actually tried to solve two problems of the "division of scientific labour" formed in the Soviet period, which were highlighted by M. von Hagen: firstly, a specialized research organization was created on the periphery of the Russian system of science, and, secondly, it was initially aimed at cooperation with representatives of other regions and countries. At the same time, the researchers did not intend to abandon their regional topics, instead actively publishing articles on the history of the regions of the former Russian Empire, rather than the empire as a whole, on the pages of the journal "Bylye Gody", which by this time had entered the most important international citation systems.

"Bylye Gody" as a platform for historians from the regions of the post-Soviet space

It is quite natural that, as a result, "Bylye Gody" became one of the most important journals for historians in southern Russia. It is equally logical that this approach attracted to Cherkas Global University specialists in the history of other historical regions of the Russian Empire besides the Caucasus, particularly Ukraine. Thus, the activities of Cherkas Global University can be seen as one of the responses of post-Soviet historians to the challenge of provincialism and the fact that capitals have traditionally been the centers of historical research. In this respect, it is significant that the Ukrainian scholars of Cherkas Global University are associated with the relatively small town of Sumy, rather than Kyiv, Kharkiv or Odessa (Our-staff).

To illustrate this situation, we considered it possible to turn to the Russian journal indexing system RSCI, as it is the largest in the post-Soviet space. We took data from four post-Soviet journals with a high rating in Scopus: "Vestnik Sankt-Peterburgskogo Universiteta, Istoriya" (Vestnik Sankt-Peterburgskogo...) (a classical university journal); "Ab Imperio" (Ab Imperio)

(the most important journal dealing with imperial and regional topics); "Bylye Gody" ([Bylye gody](#)) and "Science Journal of Volgograd State University. History. Area Studies. International Relations" ([Vestnik volgogradskogo...](#)) (another historical journal of the South of Russia included in Scopus). The system includes the following data on a comparable number of articles from these journals: "Vestnik Sankt-Peterburgskogo Universiteta, Istoriya" – 2098 articles; "Ab Imperio" – 1550 articles; "Bylye Gody" – 2000 articles; "Vestnik Volgo" – 2000 articles; "Science Journal of Volgograd State University. History. Area Studies. International Relations" – 1662 articles.

However, the affiliation of the authors of the articles differs dramatically. "Vestnik Sankt-Peterburgskogo Universiteta, Istoriya" is predictably absolutely dominated by the scholars of Saint Petersburg State University – 979 publications, while the scholars of Saint Petersburg Institute of History of the Russian Academy of Sciences, who are the second in this indicator, are represented by 40 publications. A similar, although somewhat less pronounced situation in the "Science Journal of Volgograd State University. History. Area Studies. International Relations": 552 publications by the scholars of Volgograd State University, the second place is taken by the staff of Saint Petersburg State University with 67 publications (characteristically, even in the regional edition the second place after the staff of the organization that publishes the journal was taken by authors from one of the scientific capitals of Russia). But in "Ab Imperio" the situation is quite different: the most represented scholars of Kazan (Volga Region) Federal University published total of 44 articles in it, followed by Moscow and St. Petersburg institutions (from 32 publications, the European University in Saint Petersburg, to 17 publications, M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University) occupying up to the 9th place, except for the fifth place taken by Voronezh State University with 19 publications. Next come the well-known Central European University and the University of Michigan, having 16 and 15 publications respectively. Finally, the "Bylye Gody" also have no obvious disproportion in favour of the graduating institution, but at the same time they give the greatest representation of the periphery of post-Soviet science, primarily South Russian: Cherkas Global University staff with 288 publications is predictably on first place, but then Volgograd State University with 212 publications and Sochi State University with 173 publications, and on the top ten still, besides Moscow and St. Petersburg institutions, are Siberian Federal University with 131 publications, Southern Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences with 58 publications, and National Research Tomsk State University with 56 publications. Among non-Russian organizations (except for Cherkas Global University itself), the highest ranking is not any American or European university, but Al-Farabi Kazakh National University with 51 publications.

Thus, first of all, the activities of Cherkas Global University allow historians from those regions, which in Soviet times were peripheral to Soviet historical science, to present themselves more actively in the international arena, including publications in journals that are in international databases. At the same time, such opportunities are expanding not only for the scholars of Cherkas Global University but also for provincial historians of the post-Soviet space as a whole. It should be noted that the last issue of the journal "Bylye Gody" presented several works by authors from Kazakhstan on the history of their country ([Shaygozova et al., 2023](#); [Shotanova et al., 2023](#); [Uzhkenov et al., 2023](#)), as well as authors from Russian regions on the history of these regions (for example, Siberia ([Kovalev et al., 2023](#); [Gryaznukhin et al., 2023](#)), the Urals ([Shumkin, Ustinov, 2023](#)), Kalmykia ([Tepkeev, Kamandzhaev, 2023](#)), the Cossack Don ([Trut, Voskoboynikov, 2023](#)), and the Caucasus ([Avdeev et al., 2023](#)).

International cooperation of Cherkas Global University

On the other hand, scholars of Cherkas Global University regularly make publications in journals of different countries and regions. As previously stated, among the cited articles of Cherkas Global University scholars are Slovak, Russian, and Lithuanian journals. We should add to them a number of journals that published articles by Cherkas Global University scholars that were cited 5 times or more: Georgian journal «Bulletin of the Georgian National Academy of Sciences» (most-cited article A.A. Cherkasov, V.I. Menkovsky, V.G. Ivantsov, A.A. Ryabtsev, V.S. Molchanova, O.V. Natolochnaya "The "nobility" and "commoners" in ubykh society: The reasons behind the social conflict" ([Cherkasov et al., 2014](#)), 19 citations), Slovenian journal «Annales, Series Historia et Sociologia» (most-cited article A.A. Cherkasov, V.G. Ivantsov, M. Smigel, V.S. Molchanova «The list of captives from the Turkish vessel belifte as a source of information on the slave trade in the north-western caucasus in the early 19th century» ([Cherkasov](#)

et al., 2017a), 17 citations), Moldovan journal «Rusin» (most-cited article T.A. Magsumov «The Jigets: A great history of a small people» (Magsumov, 2016), 16 citations), American journal (published by Cherkas Global University) «International Journal of Media and Information Literacy» (most-cited article A.E. Lebid, N.A. Shevchenko «Cultivating the skills of systems thinking in the context of fostering the basic and professional competencies associated with media education and media literacy» (Lebid, Shevchenko, 2020), 15 citations), Romanian journal «Terra Sebus» (most-cited article T.A. Magsumov «Vocational school and studying youth in the Russian revolution of 1905» (Magsumov, 2018a), 13 citations), Romanian journal «Brukenthal. Acta Musei» (most-cited article A.A. Cherkasov, V.G. Ivantsov, M. Smigel, V.S. Molchanova «The daily life and morals of circassian society: A historical-comparative investigation based on sources from the period between the mid-16th and the first half of the 19th centuries» (Cherkasov et al., 2015a), 12 citations), Turkish «Journal of Social Studies Education Research» (most-cited article T. Aminov, T. Magsumov, R. Sayakhov, V. Yepaneshnikov, I. Nasipov, V. Aitov «Pedagogical potential of muslim religious sources in overcoming physical and mental and psychological trials» (Aminov et al., 2018), 10 citations), Russian «Woman in Russian Society» (most cited article T.A. Magsumov «Gender Re(e)volution of commercial schools in Russia in the early XX century» (Magsumov, 2018b), 9 citations) и Slovak journal «Muzeologia a Kulturne Dedicstvo» (most-cited article – M. Šmigel, A. Cherkasov, M. Kmet «Life and traditions of Caucasian Circassians: Historical-comparative probe of travelogues of European travellers from the beginning of the 16th century to the half of the 19th century» (Šmigel et al., 2017), 5 citations).

Such international cooperation is carried out due to constant contact with universities and research organizations of different countries. At different times Cherkas Global University has signed cooperation agreements with Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and Telavi State University (Georgia), Faculty of Philosophy at Matej Bel University (Slovakia), University of Novi Sad (Serbia), Lithuanian Sports University (Lithuania), Southern Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Russian Federation) и KAD International (Ghana) (Cherkasova, 2023: 321). Together with the Centre for Behaviour & Wellness Advocacy, LBG (former KAD International) Cherkas Global University publishes «Journal of Advocacy, Research and Education», which was included in Scopus in 2024 (JARE).

The existence of international ties and the focus on international activities allowed Cherkas Global University to relocate to the USA in 2018 and its publishing house to Slovakia (Cherkasova, 2023: 322-323). Further events in Eastern Europe demonstrated the correctness of such a move and the importance of the independence of the community of historians from the Russian authorities. In 2021, Cherkas Global University even co-organized the Second International Scientific and Methodological Conference “The Values-Based Approach in Education and the Challenges of the European Integration Process” (May 28–29, 2021, Sumy, Ukraine) (Cherkasova, 2023: 325). Thanks to such a policy, scholars from Ukraine continue to work actively among its researchers, despite the initial emergence of the organization in Sochi.

5. Conclusion

Thus, the most important reason for the results achieved by Cherkas Global University was its attempt to move away from the traditional division of scientific labour in the post-Soviet space by giving a voice on the international stage to historians from regions that had previously been peripheral to Soviet historical science, and whose scholars had fewer resources for research and fewer prospects for presenting the results of research on the history of their region to the wider scientific community. Cherkas Global University proposed a networked cooperation of scholars from such regions, focused on international cooperation and not tied to the state, and this form of activity has proven to be viable. It is important to realize that it often does not replace but complements traditional state research and pedagogical institutions, where many Cherkas Global University employees continue to work. At the same time, this form of scientific interaction can be in demand not only in the post-Soviet space and not only among historians, as evidenced by the cooperation between Cherkas Global University and the Centre for Behaviour & Wellness Advocacy, LBG.

At the same time, we believe it is important to emphasize that Cherkas Global University's successes have a downside. To what extent are scientists from peripheral regions able to compete in the long term with scientists from traditional scientific centers? The regional aspect of the history of the Russian Empire should certainly be studied, and historians from the regions should also find

their place in this process, but how are they prepared for constant competition at the global level? In the case of Cherkas Global University, this issue is particularly acute because it was created by historians from the periphery, who still play key roles in this organization. The expansion of Cherkas Global University's geography and subject matter raises other questions. Will Cherkas Global University journals without historical sections be as successful? Will Cherkas Global University be able to continue building networked cooperation in the context of a war that has divided Eastern Europe? Nevertheless, the very fact that we pose such questions shows that the first decade of Cherkas Global University's publishing activity has been a success.

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