

## Ukrainian literature as a witness of Russia's war against Ukraine

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The onset of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 profoundly impacted the development of Ukrainian culture and literature. Despite the common slogan "art beyond war", in Ukraine's case, culture became actively engaged in resistance, resilience, and documentation. As of 2025, a number of writers and artists are defending Ukraine as soldiers, while others are demonstrating the power of literature on the international stage. Ukrainian writer Halyna Kruk has claimed that these unprecedented processes of transformation will define the face of Ukrainian poetry for the coming decades. Thus, nowadays literature serves both as a means of revealing trauma and as a tool for documenting the social and cultural transformations experienced by society during times of crisis.

Therefore, the goal of the topic in this issue is to gather studies by Ukrainian scholars who analyze the war from an insider's perspective, focusing on the ongoing processes in literature and culture. It aims to foster a broader discussion on how contemporary Ukrainian literature has responded to these dramatic events. The authors analyze various strategies for reconstructing and consolidating national and cultural identity. Their articles present a body of scholarship that explores wartime experiences, giving voice to diverse narrative perspectives reflecting the intricate nature of both collective and individual trauma. They explore how in the face of catastrophe, literature becomes a space where personal experience and national memory intertwine, especially in the context of internally displaced and refugee women and their articulation of intimate and collective fears and responsibilities. The contributions also consider the role of comics in shaping collective memory and civic strength, the resistance of Ukraine's various ethnic communities, and the construction of a layered Ukrainian identity grounded in resilience and cultural continuity. Finally, the topic of this issue addresses how the war and its dramatic episodes are perceived and narrated across different contexts, including the academic environment, offering a multifaceted view of conflict, memory, and identity.