



The Archive of the Ukrainian Free University as a Source for Educational Biography Research of the Ukrainian Diaspora

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The relevance of research study

The educational heritage of many Ukrainian émigré intellectuals of the 20th century is still not sufficiently integrated into the historical and educational scientific discourse.

The study of the ***archive of UFU*** opens up the opportunity to reconstruct ***the educational biographies*** of the figures from Ukrainian diaspora and research their role in preserving the academic tradition in the conditions of exile.

Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine has actualized ***educational biography*** as a tool to understand the experience of migration, displacement and transnational academic relationship.

The purpose of the research

to analyze the possibilities and limitations of ***the archive of the Ukrainian Free University in Munich*** as a source base for ***the reconstruction of educational biographies of the Ukrainian diaspora***.

The Ukrainian Free University (UFU): university in exile



It was founded in 1921 by Ukrainian academics in exile.

It functioned as a unique Ukrainian institution of higher education outside Ukraine.

It ensured the durability of the Ukrainian academic tradition in the conditions of statelessness.

Vienna

1921

Prague

1921–1945

Munich

1945–to today

Key idea

The UFU became an academic, scientific and cultural center of Ukrainian emigration, which led to the formation of a representative institutional archive.

The fate of the UFU archive

The Archive of the Viennese and Prague periods of the UFU were not preserved as a complete complex of materials.

Losses

some of the documents were
ruined or lost

Displacement

some of the documents were
taken to Munich, to Soviet
archival repositories and
classified there

Dissipation

some of the documents are kept
in Kyiv, Prague, Munich and
Russian archives

Focus of analysis: archive of the UFU in Munich

The largest part of documents, mainly from the Munich period, is now kept in the archive of the UFU in Munich.

The archive of the UFU in Munich: volume and structure

200+

fonds

1400+

files

350 m

shelving

≈ 500 000

pages

archives of emigration
organizations and
institutions

personal archives

thematic collections of
documents

film, photo and phono
archive

Research focus

Personal archives of representatives of Ukrainian science, education and culture in exile.

Educational biography: analytical framework

Educational biography is defined as the reconstruction of a personal educational, professional, teaching, scientific, and civic trajectory in the context of specific educational institutions, historical circumstances, and sociocultural environments.

Biographical approach

reconstruction of the life,
educational and professional
trajectory of a person in a
historical context

Archive studios

critical analysis of archival
documents, their origin,
preservation, lacunae and
representativeness

Transnational history of education

study of educational processes,
ideas, institutions and biographies
outside the borders of one state

Key idea

Educational biography is the point of intersection of personal, institutional, emigration and transnational stories.

Source base: personal archives

79 personal archives (fragments of archives) of Ukrainian figures of science, education, culture and public life in exile

Types of documents

biographical information

correspondence

manuscripts

lecture texts

scientific works

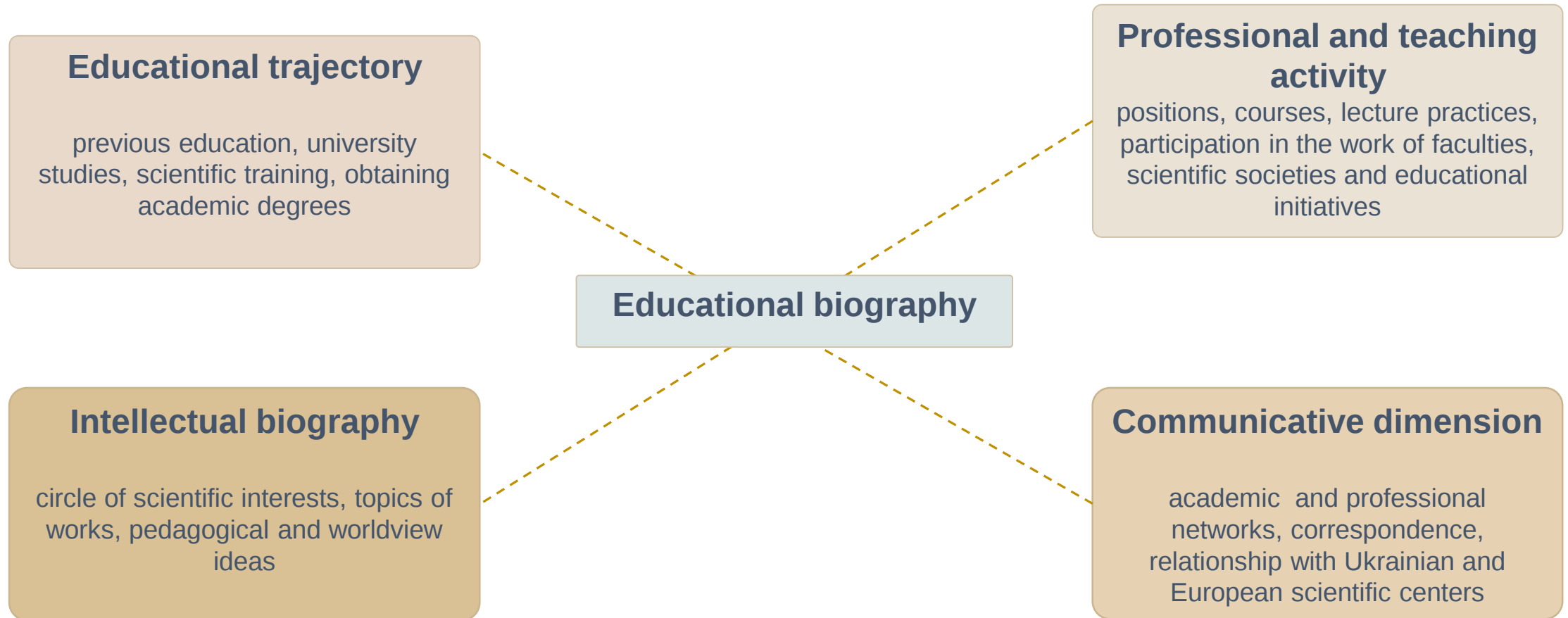
reviews

official documents

obituaries

bibliography of works

What do documents reconstruct in personal archive?



Critical reading of the emigration archive

The background of the slide is a photograph of an archive. It shows a wooden table covered with various papers, some of which are handwritten. In the background, there are several cardboard boxes, some open and some closed, suggesting a storage area for documents. The lighting is warm and the overall atmosphere is one of a historical or research setting.

Fragmentary

not all educational biographies are presented equally fully

Selectivity

documents were kept incidentally or because of institutional priorities

Self-representation

personal fonds record both a person's life and the way he is represented

Lacunae

it is necessary to analyze not only the preserved materials, but also the missing materials

Case study 1: Vadym Shcherbakivsky (1876–1957)

Model of educational biography: fragmental represented biography of an academic



Profile

archaeologist, ethnographer, art historian, professor of the UFU, prorektor in Prague and first rector of the UFU in Munich

Archive of the UFU

biographical materials, memoirs, official documents, correspondence, scientific works

Representation of educational biography

scientific, teaching, organizational and social activities mainly of the Munich period – 1945–1951

Conclusions

London period – 1951–1957 – not actually represented;
it is necessary to compare with the materials of other archival repositories

Case study 2: Volodymyr Yaniv (1908–1991)

Model of educational biography: institutional represented biography of an academic leader



Profile

psychologist, sociologist, educator,
public figure, professor and long-
serving rector of the UFU in Munich

Archive of the UFU

one of the most representative
personal fonds: 22 folders, about
1,800 units

Representation of educational biography

educational, teaching, scientific,
management and public activities

Conclusions

educational biography of V. Yaniv
represents as part of the institutional
history of the UFU in Munich

Conclusions

- The archive of the UFU represents as an important source complex for the reconstruction of educational biographies of Ukrainians in exile.
- Personal archives make it possible to trace the educational, teaching, scientific, institutional, public and communicative trajectories of Ukrainian scientists and educators of the emigration environment.
- Educational biographies of figures of the Ukrainian diaspora reveal the transnational dimension of the history of Ukrainian education in exile and make it possible to understand the experience of migration, displacements and preservation of the academic tradition.
- At the same time, the archive of the UFU needs a critical reading, as its materials are not provided a ready-made biography, but develop a source field for its reconstruction.
- The results will be published in the chrestomathy '*The Ukrainian Pedagogical Diaspora in the European and Global Educational and Scholarly Space (1919–1991)*'.



Thank you for your attention!

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