

OXYMORAL

Project Newsletter

2025-2026

Inverted Morality: Reversed Semantics in Old Church Slavic Moral Words

ANNUAL REVIEW

Words, values, histories

Research highlights | September 2025 - August 2026

Reporting period: 1 September 2025 - 31 August 2026

Funded by the EU NextGenerationEU through the Recovery and Resilience Plan for Slovakia under the project No. 09I03-03-V04-00670
Inverted Morality: Reversed Semantics in Old Church Slavic Moral Words (OXYMORAL)

A Year of Consolidation and New Connections

From September 2025 to August 2026, OXYMORAL moved from active dissemination into its concluding phase. The year combined international conference participation, new publications, targeted source research, institutional visibility and the completion of durable research infrastructure.

10+ conference and research engagements	8 new publications	1 Semantics Lab	1 online Material Bank
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The period also strengthened the bridge from OXYMORAL to the follow-up project Cross-lingual Information Retrieval for Scientific Datasets in Less-Resourced Languages (CLingS), recommended for funding in October 2025.



Autumn 2025: Research in Motion

10 SEPTEMBER 2025 [OXYMORAL at an international conference in Nitra](#)

The PI and several team members presented their research at an international conference hosted by Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra.

11-12 SEPTEMBER 2025 [Ján Gallo and Fedor Miliaev in Olomouc](#)

The team contributed to the 27th international scientific conference at Palacký University, extending the project's Central European academic network.

16-18 SEPTEMBER 2025 [OXYMORAL researchers in Poznań](#)

R2 and R1 researchers took part in the anniversary international conference New Trends in Slavic Studies at Adam Mickiewicz University.

22 SEPTEMBER 2025 [Opening of the Semantics Lab](#)

A dedicated Semantic Laboratory was opened at the Faculty of Arts in Nitra, creating a lasting research and collaboration space developed through OXYMORAL.

25-27 SEPTEMBER 2025 [Alena Kalechyts at Humboldt University](#)

OXYMORAL was represented at Humboldt University in Berlin, adding another international venue to the project's dissemination activities.

1 OCTOBER 2025 [Lecture on OCS нравъ and študъ](#)

The OXYMORAL PI presented a specialist lecture on the semantics of two key Old Church Slavic moral terms at the Faculty of Arts in Nitra.

13 OCTOBER 2025 [OXYMORAL at the Ministry of Culture](#)

The PI discussed research and cultural-heritage themes at the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic.

16 OCTOBER 2025 [CLingS follow-up project recommended for funding](#)

The successful recommendation opened a path for applying OXYMORAL expertise and infrastructure to multilingual scientific datasets and less-resourced languages.

29 OCTOBER 2025 [16th Slovak Linguists' National Meeting](#)

OXYMORAL was represented at the nationwide meeting held at the University Library in Bratislava.

NOVEMBER 2025 - MARCH 2026

Outputs and forward planning

Publications | CLingS preparation | Zadar Philological Days

Winter 2025-2026: Publishing and Planning Ahead

26 NOVEMBER 2025 [PI appointed chair of an international scientific committee](#)

The appointment reinforced OXYMORAL's role in international scholarly cooperation and conference organisation.

12 DECEMBER 2025 & 22 JANUARY 2026 [From CLingS kick-off scheduling to final-phase planning](#)

The team prepared the follow-up project's kick-off while coordinating the concluding phase of OXYMORAL and the transfer of its methods, expertise and infrastructure.

5-6 MARCH 2026 [Zadar Philological Days 11](#)

The PI and OXYMORAL team presented project-supported research at the University of Zadar, Croatia; the visit was subsequently highlighted by Constantine the Philosopher University.

12 MARCH 2026 [Promotional filming in the Semantics Lab](#)

A promotional reel documented the new laboratory and helped communicate its research mission to a wider audience.

New Publications

- **18 Dec 2025** **F. Miliaev.** *"On the Issue of Polycode Texts in Advertising"*
- **20 Dec 2025** **M. Diweg-Pukanec.** *"Metaphors in Tourism Promotional Discourse: A Corpus-Assisted Study of the Cyril and Methodius Cultural Route"*
- **15 Mar 2026** **M. Taneski & Z. Taneski.** *"Etymology and Meaning of Poetic Word in the Works of P. O. Hviezdoslav (or Let's Read Hviezdoslav with Understanding)"*
- **15 Mar 2026** **M. Diweg-Pukanec.** *"Renaissance Virtue in Verse and Prose: Rakovský's Thalia and Machiavelli's Il Principe"*
- **28 Mar 2026** **J. Gallo.** *"Linguistic and Cultural Picture of Russia in Contemporary Slovak Media Texts"*
- **11 Apr 2026** **J. Gallo.** *"Semiotic Heterogeneity of Social and Commercial Advertising as Polycode Text"*
- **11 Aug 2026** **M. Diweg-Pukanec.** *"Notes on the Semantic Development of Old Church Slavic študъ and blagъ"*
- **24 Aug 2026** **M. Diweg-Pukanec.** *Les Illuminations des mots: Généalogie du bien et du mal (Paris: L'Harmattan, 280 pp.)*

APRIL - AUGUST 2026

From sources to lasting resources

Research travel | Conferences | Material Bank | Final monograph

Spring and Summer 2026: Completing the Research Arc

5 MAY 2026 [International conference “Returns to the Sources”](#)

The PI opened the conference in Nitra and presented a paper on the Legend of Saints Svorad and Benedict and the alleged “vampire” grave on Chochel Hill, prompting an extensive scholarly discussion.

28 JUNE-3 JULY 2026 [Research in Cividale del Friuli](#)

Working with the Cividale Gospel at the National Archaeological Museum, the PI verified early Slavic personal names and investigated the historical semantics of the root *dobr-*. The findings feed into the final OXYMORAL monograph and the project’s onomastic research.

17-19 AUGUST 2026 [24th Slovak Onomastic Conference](#)

At Stará Lesná, the PI presented “On the Semantics of Slavic *dobr-* in the Multilingual Onomastic Dataset of the Cividale Gospel”. The final conference engagement also symbolically connected OXYMORAL with CLingS.

A Lasting Digital Research Resource

On 27 August 2026, OXYMORAL launched the Online Material Bank of Moral Words. The open research resource traces selected vocabulary from Proto-Slavic and Old Church Slavic into modern Slavic languages and documents forms, meanings and bibliography across South, West and East Slavic areas.

- general moral concepts, including *nravъ*, *študъ*, *obyčajъ* and *obrazъ*;
- words associated with good, including *blagъ* and *dobrъ*;
- words associated with evil, including *zъlъ* and *lixъ*;
- personal names expressing good repute or virtue, based on material from the Etymological Dictionary of the Old Church Slavonic Language.

[Explore the Online Material Bank of Moral Words](#)

OXYMORAL in the Public Eye

Project activities were also amplified through university and higher-education media. Coverage in October 2025 highlighted the project and the new Semantics Lab, while reports in April 2026 recognised the team’s successful participation at Zadar Philological Days. These features extended the visibility of OXYMORAL beyond specialist conference audiences.

Looking Back - and Forward

The 2025-2026 period brought OXYMORAL's research programme to a productive conclusion. Its results now live in publications, international scholarly partnerships, the Semantics Lab and the freely accessible Online Material Bank. Together, these outputs offer a stronger foundation for understanding how moral vocabulary changes across time, cultures and Slavic languages.

The transition to CLingS carries this work forward: from the historical semantics of moral words to cross-lingual access to scientific datasets in less-resourced languages.

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