

Memorial Plaques in Urban Space of East-European Cities: Case of Kharkiv

Olga Vovk & Sergiy Kudelko

V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University
Ukraine

Types of memorial plaques

According to the object of perpetuation:

“personal”

“events”

mixed type

According to the ratio of textual and visual components:

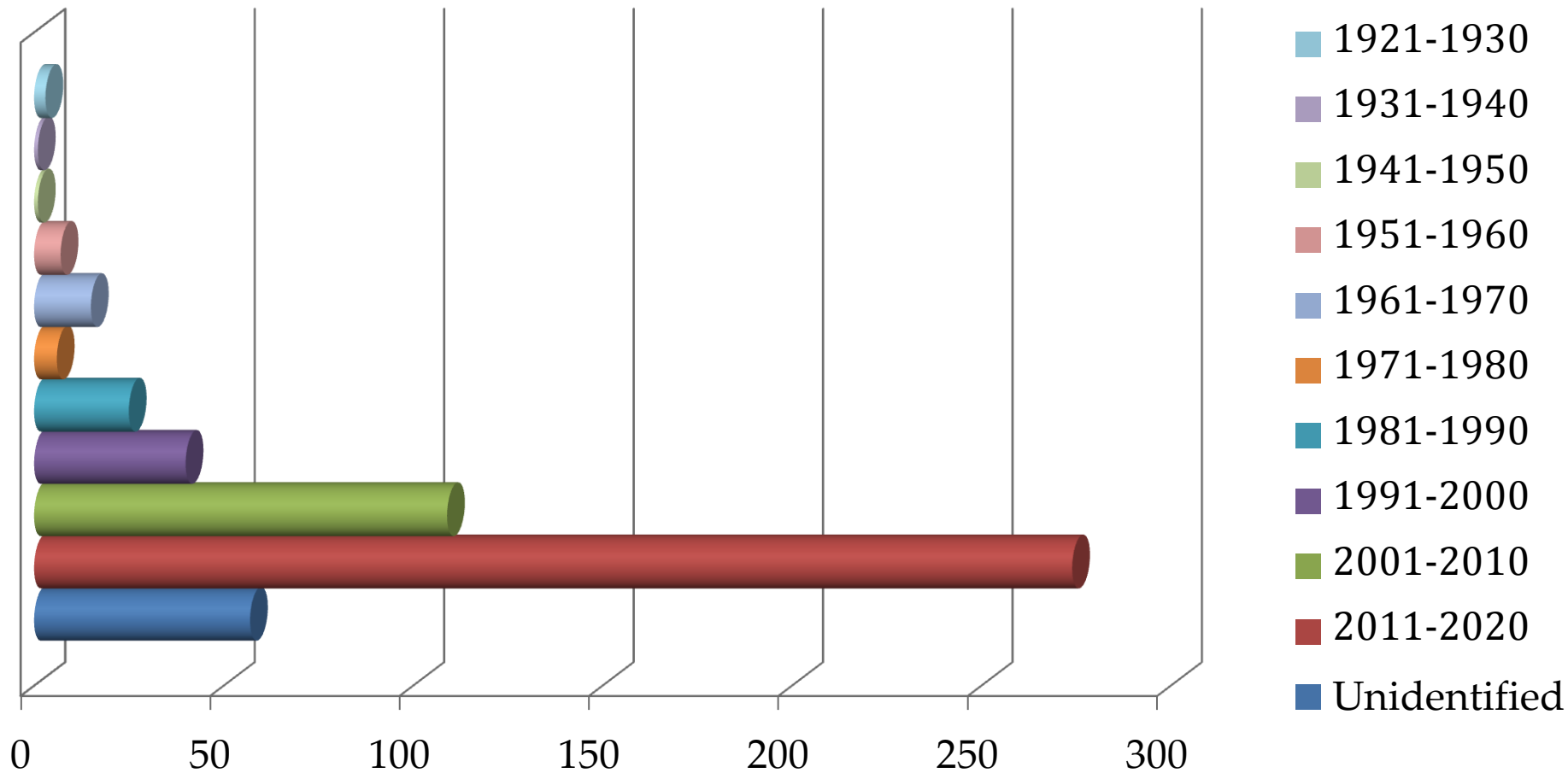
“textual”

“visual”

1st type (portrait only)

2nd type (graphics only)

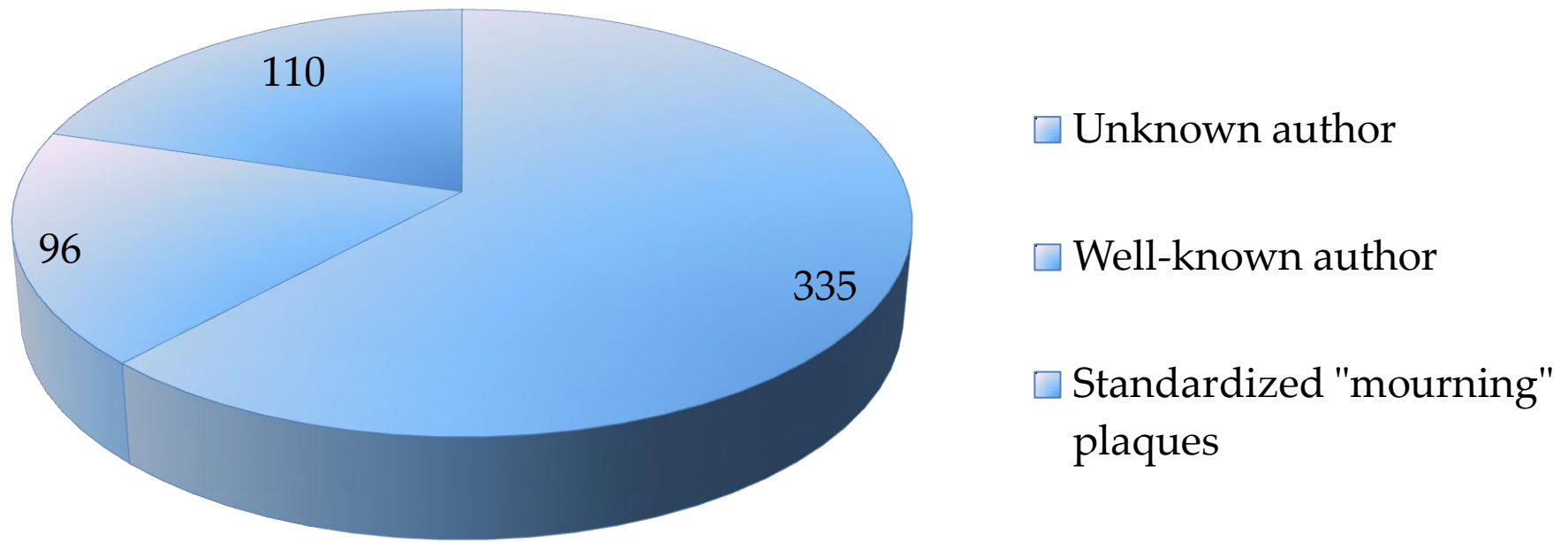
3rd type (portrait plus specifying signs and symbols)



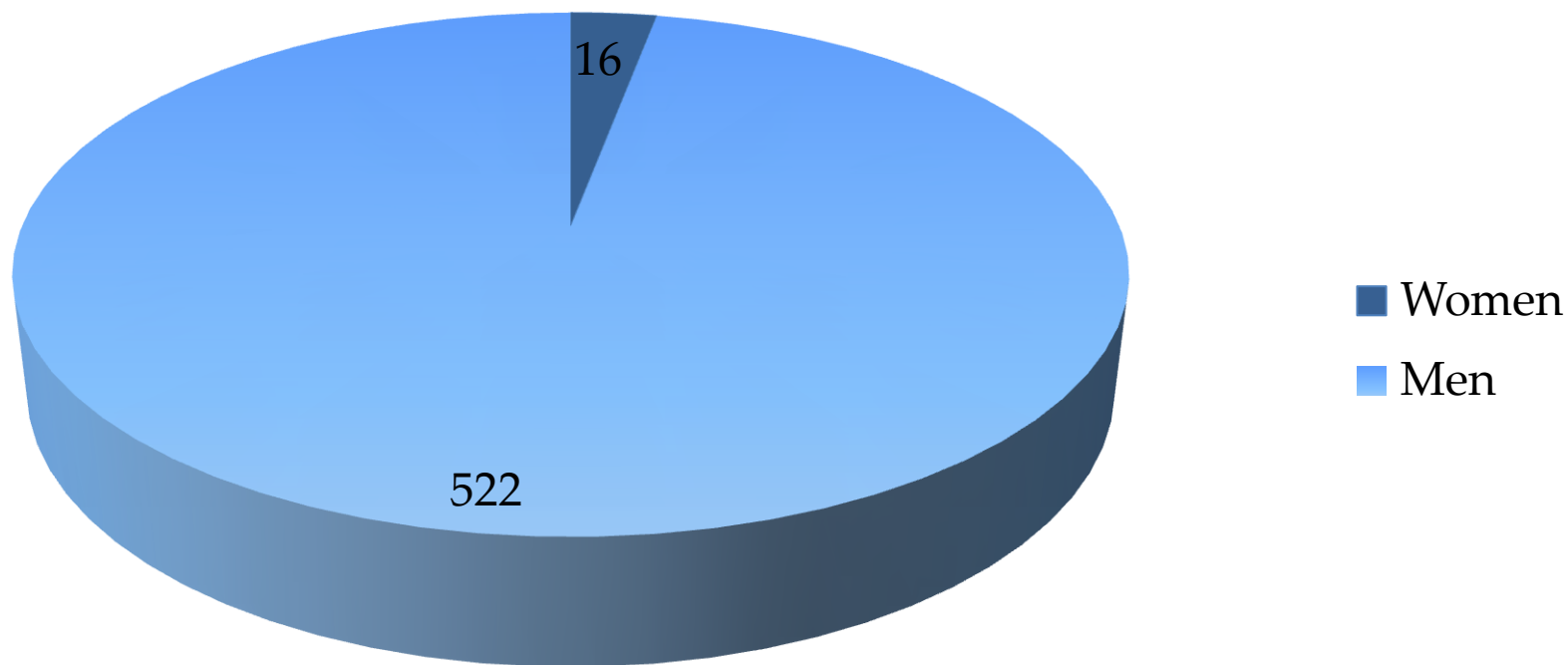
Dynamics of unveiling memorial plaques in Kharkiv (1928–2020)

The most common themes of Kharkiv memorial plaques in the temporal section (1928–2020)

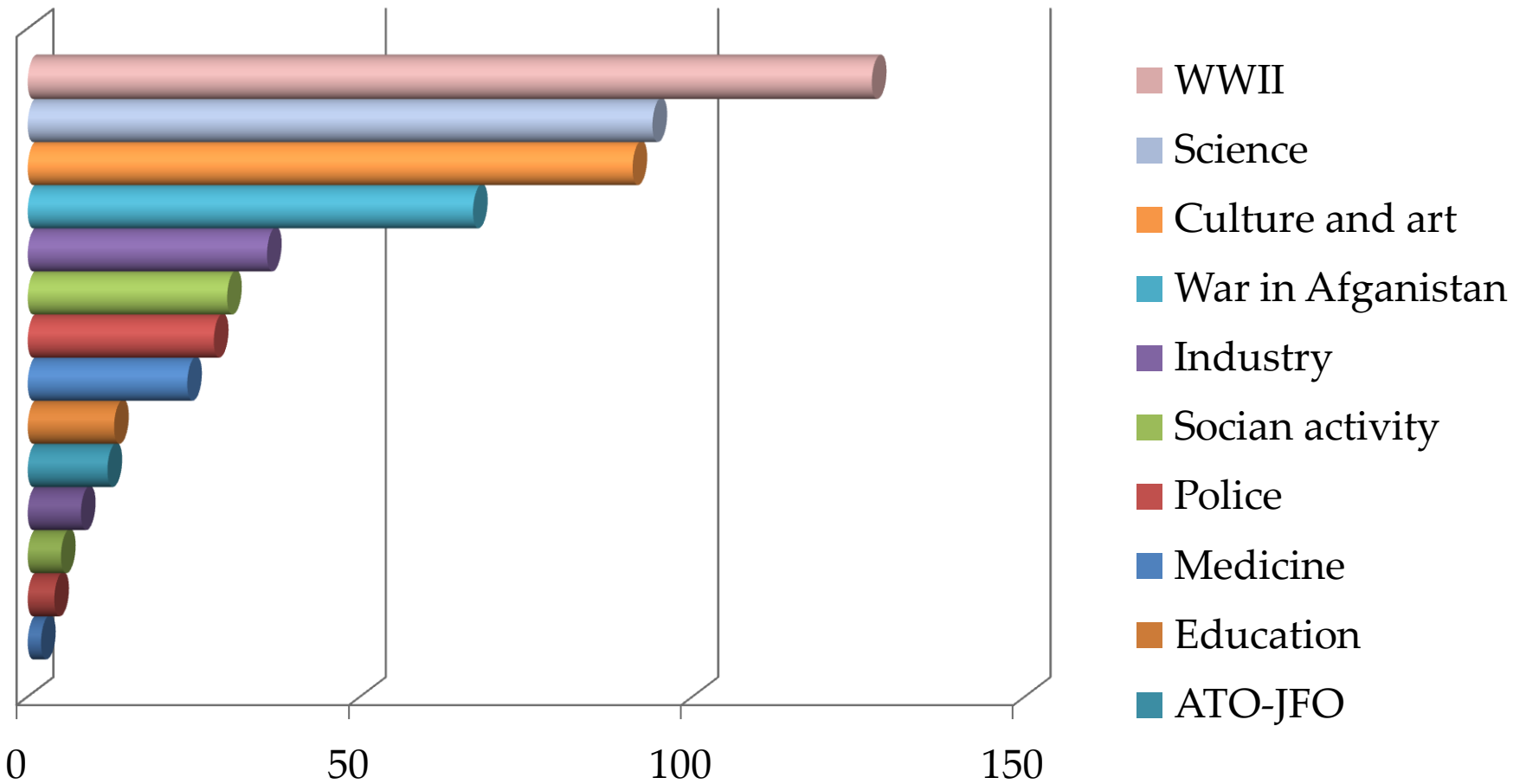
Period	Science and technology	Culture and art	Social activities	Second World war	Industry	War in Afganistan
1921–1930	+					
1931–1940		+				
1941–1950	+					
1951–1960		+	+			
1961–1970		+	+	+		
1971–1980	+	+	+	+		
1981–1990	+	+			+	
1991–2000	+	+			+	
2001–2010	+	+			+	
2011–2020	+	+		+		+
Unidentified	+			+		+



**Author's affiliation of memorial plaques in Kharkiv
(1928–2020)**



**Gender distribution of memorial plaques installed
in Kharkiv during 1928–2020**



**Thematic distribution of memorial plaques
installed in Kharkiv during 1928–2020**

Conclusions

Memorial plaques of Kharkiv are a clear marker of historical epochs. Their repertoire, dynamics and topography of placement, other attributes allow us not only to see the trends in commemorative practices of central and local government, civic initiatives, but also to trace changes in artistic preferences, shifting collective interests, struggle for ideological dominance in the city, analyze many global processes (emancipation of women, increasing the importance of sports, etc.). Comparing our data with information from other major cities in Ukraine and Eastern Europe, helps us better understand the processes in this macro-region. The events of world historical significance (two world wars, great revolutions, etc.) took place and unfolded there over the past hundred years. The memorial plaques of Kharkiv reflect, like in a drop of water, the great heroic and tragic history of this city, its international relations, political and artistic preferences, what we call the self-reflection of the city's residents.

Key points of the research

- ❑ Memorial plaques are an important component of sociocultural space of a city, in particular in East Europe.
- ❑ These objects have historical, architectural, artistic and commemorative valuable.
- ❑ While investigating a massif of memorial plaques, researcher has to take into consideration their verbal and non-verbal formalization, as well as period of their creation, authorship, topographical localization.
- ❑ It is clearly demonstrated in the example of Kharkiv (Ukraine) that memorial plaques are eloquent markers of social transformations.