

I decided to check the map of the project, exploring its potential geographical lacunae. As expected, there are thousands of entries to the journal from the US, hundreds from the Southern America, Southern Eastern Europe, Australia, and Europe. When I got a closer look at the entries from Europe, I noticed that the whole region did not have any marks, namely, Central and Southern Europe. No one from such countries as Bulgaria or Hungary contributed to the project. In the same time, I was puzzled by a rather high number of contributions from Russia.

There are could be a few possible reasons for the dramatically uneven number of contributions from the region. First, naturally, many people from the region simply could not be aware of the project. Second, and more importantly, many people from there are not proficient in English or Spanish, the working languages of the Journal. I checked some entries from Russia, and interestingly enough, their authors also chose English over Russian. However, I strongly believe that archive of the plague year shall be multilingual. Naturally, there are local European archives that attempt to preserve experiences of people from the area, which could avoid such obstacles.

To make such project as the JOTPY truly global and including various perspectives is still a challenge.