

## Title

Ana França's journey across Ukraine's war: Refugees, soldiers and the fight for identity

## Abstract

The day was February 23, 2022, and Portuguese journalist Ana França embarked on a plane to enjoy her vacations. She first arrived in Venice for a layover and, after a quick walk and dinner, she then headed out to the train station. Hours later she was finally in bed at her hostel in Trieste. It was past midnight when she finally fell asleep, eager to visit the city the following day. Suddenly, she was awakened by her phone ringing: it was her newspaper editor asking her to stop her vacations and head on out to report on Russia's abrupt invasion of Ukraine

It is within this setting that Ana França begins her report on the first months of the conflict, as featured in her 2023 book: *Ali está o Taras Shevchenko com um tiro na cabeça: Diário da Ucrânia*. In her account of the war, the journalist shares the tragic stories of the refugees she met, the hardships and sacrifices of those who have lost everything, as well as the experiences of soldiers and volunteers who fight to preserve their national identity.

And yet, as this study will argue, Ana França's narrative stands out as something more: it is a blend of both literary journalism and travel diary, a mixture between her work as a journalist and her humanity as an individual. By deconstructing her book, this study hopes to explore how the journalist travels, not only geographically from city to city in Ukraine, but also through her intimate thoughts, visions and descriptions of an ongoing conflict.