



Organizacija Združenih  
narodov za izobraževanje,  
znanost in kulturo



Nacionalni odbor programa za  
upravljanje z družbenimi  
spremembami - MOST



**Slovenian National Committee of the  
UNESCO Management of Social Transformations Program (MOST),**

**and**

**School of Advanced Social Studies, Nova Gorica, Slovenia**

in cooperation with

Slovenian Social Science Association and ISA Junior Sociologists Network

*cordially invite you to submit paper proposals for the*

**11<sup>th</sup> Slovenian Social Science Conference**

**„ Observing social transformations:  
National and Transnational perspectives”**

**May 30-June 1, 2019, Ljubljana, Slovenia**

*Scope of the Conferences:*

The social transformations we live in are becoming increasingly dynamic and hard to predict. While accelerated globalisation seems to be an obvious trend in the economic, political and cultural spheres, the future outcomes are far from clear. They do not depend only on the existing structures, processes and potentials but also on how these structures, processes and potentials are *observed and perceived* by individual and collective social agents. When these agents, through their actions, affect the future of our societies in increasingly morphogenetic terms, they are themselves inevitably affected by their own interpretations of the reality. The perspectives, narratives, semantics, discourses are thus no less important than social structures. The ways, in which transformations are understood, may thus be no less relevant for the future than these transformations themselves.

The global interconnectedness and interdependencies can be seen today as a place of accelerated capitalist market competitions and as an opportunity for alternative globalisations; as a need to move beyond the local perspectives and to re-affirm them; as transcending cultural differences and as re-affirming them, as the beginning of the end for the nation state and as a demonstration of its pervasiveness.

It is the role of social scientists to observe, interpret and evaluate these varieties of perspectives – and to add the perspectives of their own – well supported, of course, by relevant social theories and rigorous empirical observations. Special attention will be devoted to **innovative research methods in comparative research**, based on the combinations of qualitative, quantitative and mixed research methods.

Based on this, our conference shall primarily but not exclusively focus on:

- **economic perspectives:** explaining contemporary capitalist markets, their social and technological contexts, as well as social and environmental consequences – from the local to the global level; observing the persistence or re-emergence of (national) protectionism confronted with the ideas of free flows of labour, capital, goods and services; what are the opportunities and threats of these concepts and how they are related to each other;
- **cultural perspectives:** observing the complex relations between nationalism and cosmopolitanism, between the ideas of cultural universalism and cultural relativism, understanding and managing intercultural relations, clashes and solidarities, observing the varieties of imagined communities and the perspectives that see the world as divided into civilisations and the traps related to such views;
- **political perspectives:** the challenges for liberal democracy when confronted both with globalising and fragmentising trends, its links both to the nation state and to cosmopolitanism, evaluating local, national and transnational governance, new perspectives on borders and migrations, protecting human rights and free speech in the era of “political correctness”, “fake news” and “hate speech”.

*Contributions addressing these and similar aspects of social transformations are welcome. You may address both Eastern and Western societies, global North or global South, deal with broad comparative perspective, individual case studies, and apply a broad variety of theories and research methods – with a particular though not exclusive emphasis on comparative and mixed research methods.*

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:**

- *Professor **Sari Hanafi**  
International Sociological Association President; Professor at the American University of Beirut*
- *Professor **Stefano Bianchini**  
Director at the Department of Political and Social Sciences, University of Bologna, Italy*
- *Dr **Mark Maguire**  
Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Maynooth University, Ireland*
- *Dr **Ladislav Cabada**  
Vice-rector for Research and Creative Work, Metropolitan University Prague, Czech Republic*

***Abstract, language, and submission:***

The organizers invite theoretically or empirically grounded papers on the above topics. Special consideration will be given to empirically grounded papers, either comparative or country-based. The language of the abstracts, the papers and the conference will be English. Abstracts should be about 400 words and should be accompanied by the name(s) of the author(s), his/her/their affiliation(s) and e-mail(s).

The *processes of abstract submission* and acceptance will be managed using the online platform that will be [conference registration platform](#) available as of now. Please make sure you initially create an account for yourself on the conference platform and choose the status of *Author* in the process.

***Publication of the papers:*** Full papers based on the conference presentations submitted within one month after the conference (i.e. before July 30, 2019) will be considered for publication in a edited volume published by Cambridge Publishers or in an edited volume of an international scientific journal.

***Organizing institutions:***

- Slovenian National Committee of the UNESCO Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST)
- School of Advanced Social Studies / Fakulteta za uporabne družbene študije v Novi Gorici
- International Sociological Association: Junior Sociologists Network
- Slovenian Social Science Association

***Important Deadlines:***

Deadline for submitting paper proposals (max. 400 words) – March 25, 2019

Notification of paper acceptance – March 31, 2019

Deadline for registration – April 30, 2019

***Conference Fees:***

Regular fee – EUR 60

Discounted fee for PhD and MA students in Social Science – EUR 30

*Accommodation and Travel:* Will be covered by the participants.

*Meals:* reception dinner and coffee breaks snacks will be by the organisers

***Conference venue:***

Slovene Ethnographic Museum, Metelkova 2, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Prof. Dr. Borut Rončević  
Dean of SASS

Prof. Dr. Matej Makarovič  
President of the MOST  
National Committee at  
UNESCO