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SLOVENSKÝ NÁRODOPIIS (SLOVAK ETHNOLOGY) is a journal published five times a year by the Institute of Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava, Slovakia. Four issues are published in the Slovak language, the fifth issue in the English language.

Slovak Ethnology is devoted to research in the fields of ethnology, cultural/social anthropology and related disciplines. The papers published in the journal focus territorially mainly on Slovakia and Central Europe and are oriented towards social analysis based on field research predominantly. The editors prefer analytic, theoretical or synthetic articles contributing to current debates in the social sciences. The main themes of the journal include ethnic, cultural and historical development in Central Europe; social and cultural aspects of economic and political transformations; modernisation processes in both rural and urban areas; ethnicity and minority issues; the role of cultural heritage in the European context; history of the social sciences and humanities. Contributions on other topics are also welcomed. The journal also publishes research reports, book reviews, interviews, critical comments, and other news items.

The journal also provides a space for discussion of important issues in the social sciences as well as critical response to the published articles. All major articles undergo reviewing by commentators selected internationally.

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V prezentovaných čísłach Slovenského národopisu sú online sprístupnené iba publikácie pracovníkov Ústavu etnológie SAV.

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Impaktovaná databáza European Science Foundation (ESF)
European Reference Index for the Humanities (ERIH): www.esf.org
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The main topic of this issue of Slovak Ethnology, the third one published in English, is intimacy and intimate relationships. We received some really interesting contributions which are published here as articles.

The first one, written by Zuzana Krátka from the Ethnological Institute in Prague, deals with the topic of intimate relationships of young people from various countries of the world working on cruise ships in the Caribbean. She deals not only with a concept of 'ship life', but also that of 'ship love', which means intimate relationships between crew members during their stay on the ship. These relationships have their own specific rules, different from norms of behaviour known from their homelands. Another interesting theme is how these people from such different countries as India, Philippines, Thailand, Great Britain, Italy or some East-European states communicate with each other and how their norms of dating and having a sexual relationship change in this special situation.

Another paper by Adam Drazin from University College London is concerned with the anthropology of care, especially cleanliness and consumption in urban Romanian houses. Using the example of two families from the town Suceava, A. Drazin shows us a lot of possibilities of how such a common thing as soap could be interpreted as an expression of care. These relationships are based on very intimate feelings and have a lot of serious social consequences.

László Kürti from the University of Miskolc wrote a contribution about 'intimacy, gender and death' seen by the eyes of an empathetic field researcher and ethnographer. This work is a kind of homage to two of Kürti's beloved informants and friends; it is very personal, emotional, and based on memories, some of them really very intimate. The author labeled this approach as autoethnography and it caused very different reactions from reviewers – from agreement to a strict rejection with the argument that this kind of writing is more suitable for 'some literary supplement' than for a scientific journal. This is the main reason why we are publishing this work as a discussion. We hope that this relatively new approach to ethnological research in Central European area will start the discussion among Slovak social scientists about its validity and possibilities.

We are proud to publish an essay written especially for our quarterly by Jonathan Larson from the University of Iowa. His text also deals with the importance of intimacy in today's anthropological research giving examples of the use of this theme in ma-
ny works by contemporary North American and European anthropologists and showing us a variety of possible approaches. Many changes have taken place since the times of B. Malinowski and M. Mead, but this theme is still an important part of scientific research. The main question is not why to do it, but how, to be at the same time an exact researcher and an emotional human being.

There are two contributions in this issue, informing readers about successful projects of the Ethnological Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. The first one, by Tatiana Podolinská and Tomáš Hrstič, deals with the SIRONA Project (Social Inclusion of the Roma by the Religious Pathway). This project was carried out in the year 2010 by twenty researchers, trying to measure the influence of religious missions toward the social inclusion of Roma in Slovakia. Gabriela Kiliánová informs about another project – a partnership with the Institute of Slovenian Ethnology of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences in Ljubljana and the Institute of Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava. Their common project was entitled Slovenian-Slovak Parallels in Ethnological and Folklore Studies and it was concluded by an international conference held on June 1st–2nd 2010 in Bratislava. One of the contributions from this conference was written by Saša Babić and it is published in this issue as a research report about contemporary modifications of proverbs, sayings and other small folklore forms in advertisement.

Another part of this issue is an interview with an internationally known anthropologist David Scheffel, which was led by Alexander Mušinka. D. Scheffel reveals in this interview the very beginning of his career as a researcher in Canada and tell us not only of his current work in Eastern Slovakia, but also about his plans for the future. At the end of the issue you can find reviews of some interesting books published recently.

We hope that all contributions will draw the readers’ attention and they will be an inspiration for further scientific work in the field of ethnology and/or social anthropology and related social sciences.

VLADIMÍR POTANČOK