

INSTITUTE OF ETHNOLOGY
OF SLOVAK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM

Editorial

The Institute of Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences celebrated its 70th anniversary last year. In this order we organized *Laudation Day* in June 2016 connected with a unique exhibition¹ and introduction of a scientific monography interpreting seven decades of the life of our institution and ethnology in Slovakia (Kiliánová, Zajonc, 2016)². In October 2016, as the last act to celebrate our anniversary, we organized a scientific event, an international conference *Ethnology in the 3rd millennium*, devoted to current development of our discipline in Europe³.

OUR PORTFOLIO

Our Institute was established in 1946 as the Ethnographic Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and Arts. In 1994, it was renamed to the Institute of Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (IE SAS). From the expert point of view, the Institute concentrates on the analysis of social relationships from the local and global perspective with a focus on the Slovak and Central European context. The fields of scientific interest include research on cultural traditions and ways of life, as well as social, cultural and material aspects of the economic and political transition after 1989 in rural and urban environments.

The Institute of Ethnology SAS implements new innovative knowledge in society about people's reactions to social processes, which are related to issues concerning national minorities, relationships between minority groups and the general population, human rights, gender equality, social exclusion and inclusion, genocide, racial prejudice, migration and religious diversity.

- 1 Review of its event written by Katarína Popelková was published in Slovak in Slovenský národopis/Slovak Ethnology vol. 64, no. 3, pp. 396-400 as *Slávnostný Laudáčny deň k 70. výročiu založenia Ústavu etnológie SAV v Bratislave (17. jún 2016, Bratislava)* /Laudation Day on the 70th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Institute of Ethnology SAS in Bratislava (17 June 2016, Bratislava)/.
- 2 See review of this book by Margita Jágerová in English in current issue: *70 Years of the Institute of Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences: Continuities and Discontinuities of Research and of One Institution*, Slovak Ethnology, 65(2), p. 235.
- 3 Article informing of this special anniversary conference was written by a collective of authors and it was published in English in Slovenský národopis/Slovak Ethnology vol. 64, no. 4, pp. 541-547 as *International Conference Ethnology in the Third Millenium: Topics, Methods, Challenges (19-21 October 2016, Smolenice)*.

Our research projects apply current global theoretical and methodological trends and approaches. At present, it is a top-level scientific institute of basic and applied research in the field of ethnology, cultural and social anthropology and religious studies. The principal mission of the Institute is to study man and his social relations, ways of life, as well as cultural traditions from a comparative and historical perspective. Our international co-operation involves projects on socio-economic transition and structural social changes: current challenges and problems of families at different stages of the life-cycle of their members, population ageing, poverty, inclusion of minorities, conspiracy theories, the Holocaust, religions in Slovakia in the late modern period, etc.

The work of the Institute of Ethnology achieved international recognition, and we received several international prizes, from all to mention only the *International Award of Giuseppe Pitré-Salvatore Salome Marino of Ethnological and Anthropological Studies*. We have received it two times, the second time it was for the *Encyclopaedia of Folk Culture in Slovakia* in 1996. The second very important opus to mention is the *Ethnographic Atlas of Slovakia*, published in 1990. It is the basic ethno-cartographic work and output of 20 years of work of consequent generations of ethnographers from our Institute.

From the 90s of the previous century we have been the main coordinator or research partner in 64 scientific projects, 8 of them have been financed from the funding scheme of the European Union. At national level we have carried out more than 100 projects with 2 interdisciplinary centres of excellence. We have produced more than 300 monographs in acknowledged domestic and foreign publishing houses.

In the course of the last decade there was a considerable shift in paradigm in our Institute towards the modern ethnology and modern anthropology too. From historically based or phenomenological studies of traditional culture in our country we have broadened the scope of research both in the terms of topics, methods and territory too. We are carrying out our field work not only in Slovakia, but also in Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, UK, Mexico and Guatemala. We are cooperating with universities and academic institutions across Europe and the globe too. Currently our research has three pillars: basic research, applied research and we also devote remarkable input of our energy to what is called development, it means project proposal preparation and popularization and dissemination of research data. In order to disseminate the data as broadly and as soon as possible we try to publish our studies and publications instantly also on our web page which has become the communication backbone of our Institute.

PROJECT STRUCTURE OF IE SAS IN THE 3RD MILLENNIUM

In 2002–2009, the Institute of Ethnology SAS was the research partner of two interconnected projects under the 5th Framework Programme of the European Union and the EU's FP6 *Marie Curie Training Programme-European Doctorate in Social History of Europe and Mediterranean* (chief coordinator: Università Ca'Foscari di Venezia, Italy), which set up a European network for the exchange of doctoral students. In 2002–2005, the IE SAS participated in the EU's FP5 *Mobilising Reurbanisation on Condition of Demographic Change; Key Action City of Tomorrow and Cultural Heritage* (REURBAN MOBIL), and in 2007–2009 at the EU's FP6 project *Religion and Values: Central and Eastern European Research Network* (REVACERN). In 2006–2010, the

Institute was involved in the FP6 project *Sustainability in a Globalising World, Task Group 2.2 Cultural Distance, Organisations and Governance in a Global Context*; SUS.DIV Network of Excellence (SUS.DIV). The Institute participated in 2009–2012 in the FP7 project *Models and Their Effects on Development Paths: An Ethnographic and Comparative Approach to Knowledge Transmission and Livelihood Strategies* (MEDEA). In 2011–2014, the IE SAS acted as a research partner to the cultural heritage project *Protection and Development of Heritage in Folk Culture in Central Europe* (ETNOFOLK), supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The IE SAS is also involved in many multilateral and bilateral research and education projects. One of the recent ones was the project *Crimes against Civilian Populations during WW2: Victims, Witnesses, Collaborators and Perpetrators*, coordinated by the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington (2011–2015). In 2015–2017, the Institute of Ethnology is one of the partners to the project *InovEduc – Innovative Education Methods in Slovakia and Ukraine Using Augmented Reality*. In 2009–2015, the IE SAS participated in the international project for preservation of the world cultural heritage monuments of the Maya culture in Uaxactún, Guatemala, and in the ethnographic and socio-graphic mapping of the location since 2012.

The Institute also participates in European programmes to support networks and mobility, specifically in COST actions (European Cooperation in Science and Technology): the COST action *Ageism – a Multi-National Interdisciplinary Perspective* (2014–2018), and the action *Comparative Analysis of Conspiracy Theories* (2016–2020). In 2015, the IE SAS became the founding member of the *European Network of Academic Institutions in Roma Studies (NAIRS)* with 27 European collaborating institutions at present. In 2016, the IE SAS organised the 1st NAIRS Summer School with the participation of 16 students and 5 invited lecturers. Since 2015, the IE SAS has been organising the Academy of Roma Studies in the framework of the Science and Technology Week in Slovakia. This academy has the form of 3-day open lectures by invited experts combined with a course of Roma language for the general and the expert public.

The Institute of Ethnology SAS develops active co-operation with various external public administration and third-sector institutions and organisations. It is involved in applied projects focusing on the evaluation of local and state policies and the seeking of new creative solutions, civil society development and the integration of excluded social groups.

The most recent ones include the project of evaluation of field social work among Roma communities for the European Social Fund (2009–2010); innovative research of religious missions in Roma communities and their impacts on social change (SIRONA, 2010–2011); and the scholarship programme for secondary education of Roma through the Roma Education Fund (2012–2013). Other recent projects include co-operation with *Milan Šimečka Foundation* and the *Holocaust Documentation Centre* (e.g. project of education on racial hatred and the Holocaust for teachers), co-operation with the *Public Affairs Institute* (research projects on migration and migrants' integration in Slovakia), and co-operation with the *TransFúzia* civic association (research of transgender children at elementary and secondary schools). Our researchers are members of various advisory bodies of the Slovak government, UNESCO international committees for tangible and intangible heritage, and advisory committees of the European Commission.

The researchers of the IE SAS are also involved in a wide range of popularisation projects and events (exhibitions, museum exhibitions, production of documentary

films and videos, radio programmes, etc.). In collaboration with the *Centre for Traditional Folk Culture at the Slovak Folk Art Ensemble*, we prepared the electronic encyclopaedia of folk culture in 2010–2012 in the framework of the project *Traditional Folk Culture of Slovakia in Words and Pictures*. The encyclopaedia is available at <http://www.ludovakultura.sk/>.

INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF IE SAS IN THE 3RD MILLENNIUM

The Institute of Ethnology SAS has a valid accreditation as a training institute for the internal and external forms of PhD studies for study programme 3.1.3 ethnology, with two university units – Comenius University in Bratislava and Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra. In 2015, the Institute became a member of the network of European institutions training students in SSH – the Copernicus Graduate School.

It is specific for our Institute that apart from basic and applied research we also ensure the collection, processing, protection and practical use of archive materials. The Institute's scientific archive began to be built in 1953. The text archive contains 1,480 research reports and texts, and the digital archive comprises over 125,000 digitised picture documents (105,300 negatives, 18,990 slides, and 7,560 drawings) from Slovakia and from some foreign research trips of Slovak ethnologists. We started to build our electronic archive in the 90s and we almost finished it in the frame of European project ETNOFOLK (*Preservation and Enhancement of Folk Culture Heritage in Central Europe*) which was focused on creating the website on traditional culture phenomena in Central Europe. The specific goal of IE SAS was the creation of a digital picture database, with more than 118,000 records, which is now available also to the wide public at www.uetetnofolk.eu.

The Institute also has an expert library with 12,556 books and 53 periodical titles (including 42 foreign ones), all of them available to the expert and general public.

The Institute of Ethnology houses the editorial office of the scientific journal *Slovenský národopis/Slovak Ethnology*, which is an academic peer-reviewed journal published mostly four times a year since 1953. As the only scientific journal of this type in Slovakia, it has been published for 65 years without interruption. The first and the third issue of each year are published in Slovak, and the second and the fourth ones in English – this practice started from 2014. In the last four years we digitalized all volumes of our journal, our journal is indexed and abstracted in international databases, we open access and we almost doubled our impact and number of citations per year.

SPECIAL ISSUE OF SLOVAK ETHNOLOGY AS LAUDATION TO THE 70th ANNIVERSARY

Seventy years in the life of an individual as well as institution is a long time. In the field of our discipline we have witnessed a basic paradigm shift. But one thing has not changed: man is still at the centre of our research and work. This is expressed in the logo of the Institute of Ethnology: a network of people linked together in which the individual can only be understood in connection with the other person and group.

Let me conclude this Editorial with the quotation of our dear colleague prof. Gábor Barna from Hungary. In his Laudation letter to the 70th anniversary of our Institute he

quoted the words of professor of ethnology at the University of Szeged Sándor Bálint: “the soul of society is not compromise but harmony”. With professor Bálint and Barna, I also believe that the results of our work must serve harmony between man and man in local, European and world society, harmony between man and nature, harmony between man and the transcendent world.

To celebrate this harmony and at the occasion of our anniversary we have prepared for you this special issue as a contribution of ethnology and social and cultural anthropology to ensure the balance in the current modern world. Last year we also devoted the international conference *Ethnology in the 3rd Millennium* to the 70th anniversary. It is our honour to welcome in this special issue of our journal key-note contributions as well as some topical and inspirational contributions originally given at the mentioned conference. These contributions were written by the leading European experts from our field, such as Haldis Haukanes from the Department of Health Promotion and Development, University of Bergen, Norway, Valentina Gulin Zrnić from the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research in Zagreb, Croatia, Gábor Barna from the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Szeged, Hungary, Zdeněk Uherek from Ethnological Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in Prague, Katarína Popelková and Tatiana Podolinská from IE SAS and Julien Giry from Institute of Public Law and Political Sciences, University of Rennes 1, France. They discuss a broad scope of current topical issues.

The article by Haldis Haukanes called *Futures full of promise, futures of despair. Contrasting temporalities in the life narrative of young Czechs* compares the results of various fieldwork of the author in rural regions of the Czech Republic, trying to find what are the opinions of the young generation on their role in the contemporary world and their future through their narratives. This approach relies on anthropological debates about time, agency and social change and on recent scholarship on nostalgia. The author argues for the necessity of a diversified understanding of temporality, because linear and reproductive temporalities appear to co-exist with concepts of time as accelerated, incoherent and unpredictable. Tatiana Podolinská from the Institute of Ethnology SAS in Bratislava in her article *Roma in Slovakia – silent and invisible minority (Social Networking and Pastoral Pentecostal Discourse as a case of giving voice and positive visibility)* paid attention to the analysis of trans-social and trans-ethnic discourse and the concept of New Roma offered to Roma people by some pastors of various Pentecostal movements in Slovakia.

Two articles are dedicated to holidays and feasts and their place in modern societies. Gábor Barna from University of Szeged, Hungary, entitled his key paper *Rites, Feasts, Identity. Possible Questions and Answers on the Present-day Functions of Rites and Feasts*. In this paper he compared the main church holidays in Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Austria (countries which used to be part of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire) and revealed similarities and differences among them. In the second part of his contribution the author reflects changing functions of holidays nowadays with their desacralisation, leading “from feasts to festivals”. Katarína Popelková from the Institute of Ethnology SAS in Bratislava, author of the study entitled *Holidays – the Mirror of Society. The Social and Cultural Contexts of Present-Day Holidays in the Slovak Republic*, show us various changes and motifs connected with holidays in the beginning of 21st century in Slovakia. Her work also tries to understand how state holidays are becoming a platform for public debates of citizens and also for regular political fights before elections.

Julien Giry, research fellow from the Institute of Public Law and Political Sciences, University of Rennes 1, France, has written a paper entitled *A Specific Social Function of Rumours and Conspiracy Theories: Strengthening Community's Ties in Troubled Times. A Multilevel Analysis*, which is based on the hypothesis that conspiracy theories and rumours are an act of social conformism. Julien demonstrates this assumption through a multilevel analysis with a wide range of social situations from the French Revolution and post-colonial India to nowadays' neighbourhood conflicts and violent conflicts of Jonestown and Waco.

Valentina Gulin Zrnić in the research study called *Ethnological and cultural anthropological approaches to the city: framework of the Zagreb city-making project* described experiences of her scientific team trying to intervene in the urban environment of city of Zagreb with the help of some artists and their works. This fruitful cooperation positively influenced citizens' attitudes to their renewed city spaces. The paper also offers a glimpse on urban research in (Croatian) ethnology and cultural anthropology and research methods of walking ethnography and sensory ethnography are also discussed.

Zdeněk Uherek from Prague offers the readers his essay called *Not only moving bodies: contested and transforming concepts in migration studies*. He focuses on the concept of transnationalism and its meanings in the past and present, the role of contemporary diasporas, multiple identities and many other problems connected with migration.

We are sure that all these published articles are important and valid contributions to the current debates concerning the role of ethnology in modern society and provide the readers with the vivid spectrum of methodology and new theoretical approaches leading this branch of social sciences to the third millennium.

TATIANA PODOLINSKÁ,
VLADIMÍR POTANČOK,
Institute of Ethnology of SAS, Bratislava

REFERENCES

- Bitušíková, A., Blahová, N., Hlinčíková, M., Kiliánová, G., Lutherová S. G., Panczová, Z., Podolinská, T., Popelková, K., Potančok, V., Volanská, L. (2016). International Conference Ethnology in the Third Millennium: Topics, Methods, Challenges (19–21 October 2016, Smolenice), *Slovenský národopis*, 64(4), 541–547.
- Jágerová, M. (2017). 70 rokov Ústavu etnológie SAV: kontinuity a diskontinuity bádania a jednej inštitúcie (70 Years of the Institute of Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences: Continuities and Discontinuities of Research and of One Institution), *Slovak Ethnology*, 65(2), p. 235.
- Kiliánová, G., Zajonc, J. (2016). *70 rokov ústavu etnológie SAV: kontinuity a diskontinuity bádania a jednej inštitúcie*. Bratislava: VEDA.
- Popelková, K. (2016). Slávnostný Laudáčny deň k 70. výročiu založenia Ústavu etnológie SAV v Bratislave (17. jún 2016, Bratislava) / Laudation Day on the 70th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Institute of Ethnology SAS in Bratislava (17 June 2016, Bratislava), *Slovenský národopis*, 64(3), 396–400.