

Call for papers for the special issue of Slovak Ethnology/Slovenský národopis, Volume 73, Number 2/2025, on the topic of Ethical and Methodological Uncertainties in Studying Eastern Bloc Ethnology and Folkloristics.

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The history of the Cold War era ethnology and folkloristics in the Eastern Bloc poses many pressing questions related to the range of fundamental uncertainties that arise when discussing the socialist past. While the number of works on the topic has been steadily growing in the past decades (Hann, Sárkány, Skalník, Eds, 2005; Bošković, Hann, Eds., 2013; Mihăilescu, Naumović, Iliev, Eds., 2008; Zachar Podolinská, Popelková, 2023; Çencis, Bronner, Seljamaa, Eds., 2024), not many authors paid attention to the variety of methodological uncertainties arising when studying this specific period.

Without losing sight of the specifics of the socialist era, our special issue aims to give priority to ethical and methodological issues.

We would like to encourage prospective authors to focus on the issues such as:

- What kind of source criticism is needed when working with the documents produced under the socialist power structure?
- What uncertainties are there when one does not have all the relevant archives fully available?
- How should we approach lacunae and omissions in interlocutors' narratives?

- Is it possible to reconcile interlocutors' right to privacy and personal rights with research objectives especially when the interlocutors were involved in the 'problematic' past and are still alive?
- Are there tactful ways to deal with apparent misdeeds (such as plagiarism or sharecropping) of accomplished scholars?

Seemingly limited to the past, these questions have a substantial bearing on our present as several scholars who began their careers during the socialist period continue to be active today, usually as power holders with the capacity to influence academic careers. So, how complicated is it to write about „skeletons in the closet“ and „elephants in the room“?

We welcome theoretical articles as well as case studies that discuss ethical and methodological uncertainties in striving to find a nuanced way to describe the disciplinary past.

Contributors are kindly requested to submit their abstracts and keywords directly through the editorial system of the Journal Slovak Ethnology (<https://journals.savba.sk/index.php/slovenskynarodopis/login>) **no later than 1st December, 2024.**

The final manuscripts will be expected **no later than 28th February 2025**, through the same editorial system. They should not exceed 6,250 words or 45,000 characters, including spaces, notes, and references, and should follow the journal's guidelines for authors accessible ([HERE](#)).

Literature:

Bošković, A., Hann, C. (Eds.) (2013). *The Anthropological Field on the Margins of Europe, 1945–1991*. Lit Verlag.

Hann, C., Sárkány, M., Skalník, P. (Eds.) (2005). *Studying Peoples in the People's Democracies: Socialist Era Anthropology in East-Central Europe*. Lit Verlag.

Çencis, T., Bronner, S. J., Seljamaa, E. (Eds.) (2023). *Folklore and Ethnology in the Soviet Western Borderlands: Socialist in Form, National in Content*. Rowman Littlefield.

Mihăilescu, V., Naumović, S., Iliev, I. (Eds.) (2008). *Studying Peoples in the People's Democracies II. Socialist Era Anthropology in South-East Europe*. Lit Verlag.

Zachar Podolinská, T., Popelková, K. (2023). *Story of Cohesion: On the History of an Academic Institution*. VEDA.