

Call for papers to the special issue of **Slovak Ethnology/Slovenský národopis**, volume 74, number 2, on the topic **New Challenges for Qualitative Research Methods on Transnational Families in a Changing World**

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The complexities of contemporary social fabrics and their rapid transformations challenge researchers and academics to continuously reflect on methods, research topics, and ethical considerations in new and evolving ways. Research methodologies must adapt to shifting social realities, shaped not only by the needs of research subjects but also by researchers' own lives and their diverse professional and personal commitments (Günel et al., 2020). A key challenge lies in positioning researchers and social scientists in an era characterized by multiple crises (Das, 2015, 2016). In the post-pandemic world, the intersection of personal and professional experiences underscores the necessity of reflexivity—particularly regarding how researchers' biographies, experiences of crises, and the disruptions they encounter influence their methodological choices and engagement with interlocutors.

Research on transnational families—typically defined in migration studies as families whose members are physically dispersed across two or more countries yet maintain a sense of familyhood (Bryceson & Vuorela, 2020; Cienfuegos-Illanes & Brandhorst, 2023)—presents a distinct set of methodological challenges. These include engaging with research subjects who may be (im)mobile, geographically distant, or socially vulnerable, as well as those who are familiar or even experts in their own right. While these challenges are complex, they also provide a dynamic and enriching research landscape. As a result, scholars must continually reflect on and refine methodologies such as ethnography, participant observation, multi-sited fieldwork, autoethnography, and other qualitative approaches. Furthermore, academic inquiry rooted in empirical research—whose core purpose is to deepen understanding—demands ongoing methodological and epistemological reflection.

This special issue of Slovak Ethnology critically examines the challenges of conducting qualitative research on transnational families and invites authors to methodologically contribute to the topic by addressing various aspects of this relationship, including the needs of research subjects, researchers' subjectivities, research ethics, the positionality of researchers, and the specific research contexts surrounding transnational families, while also calling for innovative methodological contributions.

The special issue is collectively organized by COST Action CA21143 Transnational Family Dynamics in Europe (TraFaDy) and also supported by the APVV project VV-MVP-24-0203 Family on the Edge: Current Contexts of Vulnerability and Transnational Family Transformations.

Contributors are kindly requested to submit their abstracts and keywords directly through the editorial system of Slovak Ethnology (<https://journals.savba.sk/index.php/slovenskynarodopis/about/submissions>) no later than **June 30, 2025**.

The final manuscripts will be expected **no later than January 31, 2026** 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](#)).