

Proposal for the SN/SE Issue 3/2026 (ENG)

Deadline for submission of the abstracts: 15 January 2026

Deadline for submission of the final manuscripts: 15 May 2026

Peer-reviewing, editing: 16 May 2026 – September 2026

Publication: in September 2026 in SN/SE 3/2026 (ENG)

Invited co-editor: Stephan Dudeck (Research Institute for Sustainability at GFZ)

Call for papers to the thematic issue of **Slovak Ethnology/Slovenský národopis**, volume 74, number 3, on the topic **Otherness in the (Un)Making: Media Representations of Marginalised People and Communities**.

Guest editors:

Jaroslava Panáková, Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovakia; <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4116-3848>

Stephan Dudeck, University of Tartu and Research Institute for Sustainability at GFZ; <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3883-1251>

We are delighted to announce the call for proposals for a **Thematic Issue of *Slovak Ethnology***, to be published in **September 2026**. We invite scholars to submit their abstracts, bringing together theoretically grounded and ethnographically rich contributions that engage with the aligned theme, **Otherness in the (Un)Making: Media Representations of Marginalised People and Communities**

Drawing on Nichols's (1992) concept of *ethnotopia*, this issue interrogates the persistence and transformation of colonial imaginaries – including various forms of *mission civilisatrice* – across archival, reportage, domestic, and other visual media. Photography offers a critical lens for examining the visual (un)making of otherness in diverse historical, political, and cultural contexts. Across the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, accelerating social, technological, and institutional change has reshaped aesthetic norms and sensory regimes (e.g., Yurchak, 2006; Yamin-Pasternak et al., 2014), altering practices of looking, sensing, and image production. Visual representations simultaneously function as mediating devices, metaphors of broader social worlds, and agents of social and political transformation (Oushakine, 2020), while institutions increasingly intervene in everyday intimacies (Peers, 2019). Such dynamics

destabilise long-standing conventions of portraying marginalised individuals and communities.

Examining photographic authorship across ethnographic, journalistic, documentary, domestic, and digital contexts reveals how asymmetries of power, institutional structures, and inherited visual idioms shape the production of otherness. At the same time, self-produced images – whether home photography, self-portraits, or digital self-representations – demonstrate how photographed subjects appropriate, reinterpret, contest, or subvert imposed paradigms.

Existing scholarship addresses photography's roles in sociality, memory, domesticity, and mobility (Bourdieu et al., 1990; Hirsch, 1997; Radley, 2010), and its entanglements with colonial and post-colonial knowledge regimes (Tagg, 1988; Edwards, 1992, 2012). Yet it often privileges sociological interpretation over close visual analysis or depends heavily on linguistic frameworks (Morton & Edwards, 2009).

In response, this issue invites contributions attentive to visual composition, aesthetic idioms, multimodal contexts, and sensory experience, grounded in reflexive and participatory ethnography. Approaches such as semantic and compositional analysis (Clarke, 2005; Kepes, [1944] 1995), photo elicitation (Panáková, 2019), co-creative and collaborative visual methods, and multimodal analysis offer productive avenues for exploring how images construct, circulate, and potentially decolonise otherness.

This thematic orientation foregrounds the shifting politics of representation and the ways in which marginalised people and communities are produced, mediated, embodied, and contested through visual, digital, and multimodal practices. We particularly welcome work addressing authorship, agency, power asymmetries, (de)colonial imaging, and the interpretative labour through which otherness is continually remade or dismantled.

The special issue is supported by the Grant Agency of the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic and the Slovak Academy of Sciences – VEGA No. 2-0139-24.

Proposal Submission

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/submission) (<https://journals.savba.sk/index.php/slovenskynarodopis/about/submission>) no later than **15th January, 2026**.

The final manuscripts are expected **no later than 15th May, 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](#)).