

The issue of Slovenský národopis/Slovak ethnology seeks contributions dealing with innovative participatory methods that engage older adults as equal collaborators in research, policy, and practice designs. We welcome case studies, methodological insights, and theoretical reflections showing how participatory practices can rewrite conventional power dynamics.

Guest editors

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Call for Papers

Slovenský národopis / Slovak Ethnology, 2/2027

Participatory Approaches in Ethnology, Anthropology: Methods, Ethics and Power Relations

Slovenský národopis / Slovak Ethnology invites contributions for a special issue dedicated to participatory approaches with older adults in ethnology, social and cultural anthropology, medical anthropology, social, cultural, economic and political geography, sociology, heritage studies, museum studies and related fields.

Participatory research has become an increasingly important way of producing knowledge with, rather than merely about, communities, groups and individuals. Such approaches are closely connected to questions of collaboration, shared ownership, co-creation, public engagement, community expertise, epistemic agency and the politics of representation. They raise complex methodological and ethical issues: Who defines the research questions? How are roles, expectations and responsibilities negotiated? What forms of knowledge are recognised as legitimate? How can researchers work with asymmetries of power, institutional

hierarchies and unequal access to resources? And how can participatory processes be evaluated beyond simple claims of inclusion?

This issue seeks to explore participatory approaches as situated, negotiated and often ambivalent research practices (Urbaniak, Wanka 2024). We welcome empirically grounded, theoretically informed and reflexive contributions that examine both the possibilities and the limits of participatory practices and research with older adults. Contributions may address successful examples of collaboration, but also tensions, failures, misunderstandings, ethical dilemmas and practical constraints that shape participatory work in knowledge production.

We are particularly interested in contributions dealing with one or more of the following themes:

- participatory, collaborative, community-based and action-oriented research in ethnology and anthropology and related fields;
- co-creation of knowledge in heritage, museum and memory work;
- participation of older adults or intergenerational groups in research and cultural projects;
- power relations between researchers, institutions, professionals and participants;
- shared authority, authorship, ownership and representation;
- ethical challenges in participatory research, including consent, expectations, care, reciprocity and long-term responsibility;
- methodological reflections on time, trust, conflict, failure and sustainability in participatory processes;
- critical perspectives on tokenism, consultation fatigue and institutional instrumentalisations of participation.

The special issue aims to bring together contributions that reflect on participatory approaches across different empirical settings, including local communities, cultural institutions, activist contexts, health and care settings, educational environments, intergenerational projects, co-creation of knowledge with older adults and/or on ageing and/or on inter-generational relations, heritage initiatives and applied research. Comparative, historical, and theoretical

contributions are also welcome, provided they clearly engage with the methodological, epistemological, or ethical dimensions of participation.

We invite the following types of contributions:

- original research articles;
- theoretical or methodological essays;
- reflexive case studies;
- discussion papers;
- book essays or review essays connected to the theme of the issue.

Manuscripts should be submitted in English. All submitted research articles will undergo the journal's standard double-blinded peer-review process.

Indicative timeline

- **Submission of abstracts:** 15. September 2026
- **Notification of acceptance of abstracts:** 1. October 2026
- **Submission of full manuscripts:** 31. January 2027
- **Peer review and revisions:** February–April 2027
- **Final revised manuscripts:** 15 May 2027
- **Publication of the issue:** June/July 2027

Abstract submission

Contributors are kindly requested to submit their abstracts of up to 300 words 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 **15 September 2026**.

The final manuscripts are expected **no later than 1 February 2027** through the same editorial system.

The manuscripts 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](#)). The issue will be published in July 2027.

The abstract should clearly indicate the main topic, research question, empirical or theoretical basis, methodological approach and relevance to the theme of the special issue.