



Organizacija Združenih  
narodov za izobraževanje,  
znanost in kulturo



Nacionalni odbor programa za  
upravljanje z družbenimi  
spremembami - MOST



We are pleased to invite you to the

**9th Slovenian Social Science Conference**  
on  
**"Social Transformations: the Global and the Local"**

*organized by the*  
*Slovenian National Committee of the*  
**UNESCO Management of Social Transformations Program (MOST)**  
*Junior Sociological Network of the International Sociological Association*  
*and the*  
**School of Advanced Social Studies (Fakulteta za uporabne družbene študije),**

*that will take place in*  
**Ljubljana, Slovenia,**

*from*  
**21 – 23 September 2017.**

**Key note speakers at the conference will be:**

***Bob Jessop, Lancaster University***

***Habibul Khondker, Zayed University***

***Ngai-Ling Sum, Lancaster University***

## **Scope of the conference:**

A broad variety of social transformations taking place from the local to the global level have made the people and social systems on the one hand more interconnected and interdependent, and on the other hand more divided. Information and communication technologies, mass migrations, environmental issues, flows of capital, goods and services in the global markets have made local problems globalised and global problems localised. Enormous increases in opportunities opening for growing numbers of individuals have been combined with a similar increase of threats and fears. Since fears may create both self-fulfilling and self-destructing prophecies in different social contexts, it is increasingly difficult to differentiate between the imagined and actual threats.

Moreover, people's positions in social structures and their perceptions are characterised by huge differences and inequalities. Some are able to enter transnational social spaces and/or benefit from transnational flows and exchanges, enjoying the opportunities of the emerging social orders. Others are – or feel to be – excluded from these processes and confined to the local/national level. Not only they are not able to enjoy or even see the potential gains from transnational interdependencies, they may even look at them with scepticism and fear. Many of them may thus feel safer when hidden behind the newly established national strict border controls, fences and walls.

The division between the gainers and the losers from globalisation is not new but it has clearly been strengthened. It is also clearly linked to some older inequalities and a potential generator of the new ones. It could be either addressed through complex mechanisms of inclusion at different levels or it could further contribute to the rise of different political populisms, extremisms and religious fundamentalisms.

The aim of the conference is to embrace a variety of issues reflecting the connections and divisions, relating them to local and global frameworks. It welcomes a wide range of theoretical and/or empirical approaches towards the issues and thus to encourage interdisciplinary debates but also seek practical suggestions in terms of policy recommendations for the decision makers.

The presenters are invited to address the issues of social transformations in the local and global contexts and/or their interrelations, particularly from the following aspects, which will be reflected in the conference panels:

### **1. Individual and social transformations**

Due to global and transnational political, economic and cultural processes, everyday interactions between individuals occur in a changed social and cultural context blurring boundaries of traditional categories of space, groups and individuals. Transformed social reality encourages confrontation between various cultural information, which on the one hand may increase individuals' ability to adapt on the social context, and to reflexively orient their life-paths towards desired goals, while on the other hand, it may cause frustration, fear and distrust. It may thus generate significant differences in attitudes, values and identities. These individual changes, of course, take place in a broader social context – being affected by it and affecting it – thus inviting the researchers to link macro in micro-level social processes and structural shifts.

## **2. Inequality and exclusion**

Building supranational social spaces, such as the European Union, has started mainly as an elite top-down project. Despite clear policy orientation intended to engage increasing number of people, the results have been severely limited. Moreover, enormous numbers of people have not been able to see the benefits – or even to benefit at all – from the increasing global transnational interdependencies. Both problems are – at least to some extent – connected to the old (and more recent) inequalities, such as those based on class, gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, etc. Globalisation and/or various responses to it may thus strengthen some old inequalities or generate new ones. How can we understand the key inequalities and exclusion in this context? Are there ways to contribute to more inclusive social contexts?

## **3. Multilevel participation and governance**

The fact that democratic mechanisms of political decision making and their legitimacy are mostly confined to the national level, while increasing number of the most crucial political issues is transnational by its nature clearly contributes to the growing distrust and even cynicism towards political structures and processes. Political centres of power thus seem to be increasingly distant and non-responsive. Can this be solved through new ways of empowerment, encouragement of new ways of social and political participation and decision making taking place at various levels, which may include the local, regional, national or supra-/transnational?

## **4. Students' panel**

This panel will gather papers on topics described above, presented by B.A. and M.A. students. In the case of high-quality and elaboration of a paper, the latter will be included in other panels.

**The conference will be linked to the parallel event – an international workshop on the role of social sciences in social transformations, titled *Sociology and Cultural Political Economy of Post-Socialist Transformations in Eastern Europe*. The workshop will be open without additional costs for all Slovenian Social Science Conference participants as well.**

## **Participation, papers and registration**

The broad range of topics and their interdisciplinary nature implies that we welcome social scientists and experts dealing with the conference topic in the field of sociology, psychology, cultural and political sciences, economics, anthropology, psychosocial counseling, law, etc.

***We are looking forward for your early expression of interest, which can be done by sending an e-mail with the title of your paper and an abstract, of no more than 150 words, before 15 May 2017. The authors will be notified about the acceptance of their papers before 30 May 2017. The participants register for the conference by paying the conference fee. The final deadline for the payment is 31 July 2017.***

***A selection of full papers presented at the conference and delivered until 30 November 2017 will be published in a scientific journal or the edited volume, if passed the review.***

***Paper abstracts, requests for participation and additional questions should be sent to: [SSSC@fuds.si](mailto:SSSC@fuds.si) Please do not hesitate to contact us.***

Yours sincerely,

Assoc. Prof. Mateja Rek, PhD

Dean of the  
School of Advanced Social Studies

Professor Matej Makarovič, PhD

President of the Slovenian  
MOST-UNESCO National Committee

## Financial issues

As organization of the event implies several expenses, the registration fee should be paid prior to the conference, on SASS' bank account specified below. The conference fee will cover the conference materials, coffee breaks and welcome dinner. The organizers will provide information about the accommodation options if needed.

### Conference registration fees:

Presenters/ot hers	Category	Paid until 30 June 2017	Paid after 30 June 2017
Authors and co-authors presenting papers	Regular participant – individual payment	50 €	100€
	Regular participant or student – paid by institution	100€	200€
	Students (B.A., M.A., PhD) – individual payment	30€	50€
Other participants (i.e. not presenting a paper)	Regular participant (not a presenter) – individual payment	70€	140€
	Regular participant as a student (B.A., M.A., PhD) – individual payment	free	free

**PLEASE NOTE:** If a presenter cannot attend the conference out of legitimate reasons, she/he should inform [SSSC@fuds.si](mailto:SSSC@fuds.si) about the absence, no later than 31 August 2017. SASS will return 25% of the paid amount. If SASS will not be informed about your absence or you will notify us about the latter after the specified date, presenters are not entitled to a refund.

**Fees of other participants (i.e. who attend the conference, but do not present a paper) do not cover the expenses of a dinner, thus these participants will have to pay for dinner individually.**

Bank address and account:

Nova ljubljanska banka

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1000 Ljubljana Slovenia

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**Reference: 00 9-2017**