



A Brief Report on

The 11th Slovenian Social Science Conference "Observing Social Transformations: National and Transnational Perspectives"

Ljubljana, May 30 - June 1, 2019

The 11th Slovenian Social Science Conference was organised by the Slovenian National Committee of the UNESCO Management of Social Transformations Program (MOST) and School of Advanced Social Studies, Nova Gorica, in cooperation with Slovenian Social Science Association and **ISA Junior Sociologists Network**.

The focus of the debates was on the economic, political and cultural aspects of the complex relationships between the national and trans-national dimensions of the contemporary social structures, processes and actions.

The conference keynote speakers were:

- Sari Hanafi, the President of the International Sociological Association and Professor at the American University of Beirut
- Stefano Bianchini, Professor at the University of Bologna
- Mark Maguire, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Maynooth University
- Ladislav Cabada, Vice-rector for Research and Creative Work, Metropolitan University Prague.

The active participants at the Conference who presented their papers came from 22 countries from Europe, Asia and the Americas.



The welcome remarks by Dr. Dolores Modic, Member of the JSN Executive Board

A warm welcome to the 11th Slovenian Social Science Conference "Observing social transformations: National and Transnational perspectives" in Ljubljana. The Junior Sociologists Network of the International Sociological Association is proud to cooperate in organizing, for the fifth year, this academic meeting, which already become a tradition. For us it is also an opportunity to nurture one of JSN's most valuable partnerships, with the main host, the School of Advanced Social Studies, with whom we collaborate since the JSN conference in 2011. JSN extends a special thanks to the organizing committee and the hosting institution for their multiple efforts and thoughts to set up this academic gathering.

Let me re-iterate a few words already written by the organizers in the call for papers. Future outcomes of the social transformations are indeed difficult to predict and depend also on how structures, processes and potentials are perceived by social agents. The social scientists role is to observe, interpret and evaluate on one hand as well as to report their findings to the relevant stakeholders on the other hand. We as sociologists need to strive to make our work impactful in this dynamic and everchanging reality. The issues of how to achieve the impact of our science are combined with other relevant topics, such as the new open access publication strategies – with recently big publishing houses, such as *Elsevier and Wiley*, negotiating new, more open, models. Communicating our research work is thus becoming an increasingly prominent issue on the national and international arena and with it the responsibility of rigorous research even more important. Thus, we are confident that platforms to exchange research insights, such as the present conference, contribute to this overarching goals.

Allow me to say a few words on the Junior Sociologists Network of the International Sociological association (JSN of ISA). The Network brings together early-career academics and practitioners, engaged in sociology and related disciplines. The size of our community is over 3000 people. The goal of the JSN is to provide junior sociologists with a useful and supportive platform - or better said platforms - for sharing information, exchanging ideas and setting up collaborations in order to advance their careers, and to create, disseminate and apply sociological knowledge and insights. We do this by employing several distinct channels, complementary to our co-hosting of conferences, such as the present one.

For example, JSN newsletters sent every two weeks via our mailing list provide useful, interesting and relevant updates: calls for papers, post-doc positions, grants, job openings, and thought-provoking reads concerning sociology and academia.

Furthermore, we are involved in the Sociology Dissertations Abstracts project- an open-access database bringing doctoral dissertation abstracts, along with short biographies and contact details – currently hosting more than 800 abstracts. The platform allows you to discover others studying similar topics, thus engendering your scientific collaborations. Moreover, publishing houses are browsing this database, sometimes contacting those who have submitted abstracts. *Lastly*, due to JSN presence on social media, e.g. Facebook, thousands of followers have been able to take advantage of the multiplying and circulating effect of social media, by accessing announcements, dissertation abstracts and interesting links.

JSN is always open to new members and new suggestions; any initiatives and aid would be much appreciated. As junior sociologists, we must be active players in order to contribute to sociology as a science as well as to making sure our work is rigorous, relevant and impactful. I wish you a pleasant and fruitful conference! Thank you.