



Nacionalni odbor programa za upravljanje z družbenimi spremembami - MOST



A report on the 9th Slovenian Social Science Conference

The 9th Slovenian Social Science Conference took place from September 21 till September 23, 2017, in Ljubljana, Slovenia. It was co-organised by the Slovenian National Committee of the Management of Social Change Programme (MOST) at UNESCO, School of Advanced Social Studies, **International Sociological Association's Junior Sociologists Network**.

Under the topic: »Social Transformations: The Global and the Local«, it brought together sociologists and other social scientists from 33 countries (Albania, Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Montenegro, Philippines, Finland, France, Greece, Croatia, India, Italy, Qatar, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, China, Kosovo, Lithuania, Hungary, Macedonia, Moldova, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Serbia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America and United Arab Emirates) of five continents.

A special role was played by the invited keynote speakers: Bob Jessop and Ngai-Ling Sum (both from Lancaster University, UK), Habibul Khondker (Zayed University, UAE), Andrey Rezaev (St. Petersburg State University, Russia) and Zenonas Norkus (Vilnius University, Lithuania). The central topic was the relationship between global and local social transformations in the contemporary world and the role of sociology and social science in these transformations. The world is, on the one hand, characterised by increasing connectedness and interdependence among people and among social systems. On the other hand, it is increasingly divided. Information and communication technologies, mass migrations, environmental issues, flows of capital and services have globalised various local social issues, while global problems have become localised. The conference addressed the methods based on cultural political economy, the challenges and problems of youth, confronted with contemporary transformations, inter-cultural relations, economic and environmental challenges.

JSN Chair Oleg Komlik's opening remarks:

Welcome to the 9th Slovenian Social Science conference "Social Transformations: The Global and the Local" in Ljubljana!

The Junior Sociological Network of the International Sociological Association is proud to co-organize, along with the UNESCO Management of Social Transformations Program and the School of Advanced Social Studies, this academic meeting which already become a tradition. The Junior Sociologists Network (JSN) brings together students, early-career academics and practitioners, engaged in sociology and related disciplines. The members of our community (already more than 3,000 people) are concurrently locally rooted and globally connected — a

condition that is both fascinating yet challenging. Realizing this potential, JSN's mission is to try and actualize it. The goal of the JSN is thus to provide junior sociologists with a useful and supportive platform 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.

The JSN activity is based on complementary pillars. First, 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.

Second, [Sociology Dissertations Abstracts project](#) is an open-access database allowing to present doctoral dissertation abstracts, along with short biographies and contact details. By helping participants discover others studying similar topics, the platform *engenders* scientific collaborations. Moreover, publishing houses are already learning to browse this database, sometimes contacting those who have submitted abstracts.

Third, since JSN launched its [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter account](#), thousands of followers have been able to take advantage of the multiplying and circulating effect of social media, by accessing and posting announcements, dissertation abstracts and interesting links.

You are welcome to visit [JSN page on the ISA website](#) in order to join JSN and benefit from all our activities. Of course, JSN is always open to new suggestions; any initiatives and aid would be much appreciated.

As junior sociologists, paving our way uphill in harsh neoliberal and marketized realities in the shadow of authoritarian and nationalistic tendencies around the world, I strongly believe we must keep bearing in mind the imperative and essence of sociological vocation. This conference is also a small step in this complex journey.

I extend special thanks to the local organizing committee for their efforts to set up this academic gathering.

I wish you all a pleasant and fruitful conference! And don't forget to enjoy beautiful Ljubljana as a venue and experience some of the delights Slovenia can offer.

