

SOCIOLOGY IN XXI CENTURY: CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES (ON THE
OCCASION OF 80 YEARS OF FOUNDATION OF THE SERBIAN SOCIOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION)

Conference organizers: Serbia Sociological Association and the Sociology Department of the
Faculty of Philosophy, Niš, Serbia

Faculty of Philosophy, Niš, Ćirila i Metodija 2, Niš

This year marks 80 years since the foundation of the *Društvo za sociologiju i društvene nauke* (*Society for Sociology and Social Sciences*), which later evolved into the *Srpsko sociološko društvo* (*Serbian Sociological Association*). Also this year we celebrate 80 years of *Sociološki pregled* (*Sociological review*), society's journal established through work of *Society for sociology and social sciences* founders.

The two jubilees related to the development of sociology in Serbia (and the former Yugoslavia) are a reason to take a critical look at the position of sociology as a science and as a profession and ask ourselves about perspectives of further development.

This year our conference is gathering participants around following issues:

1. On aptitude of sociologists and sociological approach/imagination to deal with issues of the society in XXI century;
2. Does globalisation, as a social process that leads toward acceptance of the global sociological paradigm (the need to observe social phenomena in a comparative and trans-cultural perspective) and surpassing national frameworks of sociological research, represent encouragement to development of sociology, and how?
3. Does research of social differences, those additionally increased by globalisation, puts sociology as a science that analyses sources and outcomes of inequalities as well as mechanisms supporting them on the social margin, in order to protect the fig leaf of the existing social systems and global order in general?
4. Is sociology in crisis, and if so what the causes of that crisis could be? Could the reasons be found in the fact that a number of sociologists align themselves with the mainstream course of the global capitalism or is the opposite the case: advocacy for systemic alternatives, 'subversive action' as a part of sociological approach to social phenomena?
5. Multidisciplinary nature of research of social phenomena and problems vs single discipline (sociological) research. Relationship between these two approaches and their influence on the development of sociology. Do recommendations from the Report of Gulbenkian Commission genuinely 'open' social sciences, including sociology as the most general science about society? Scientism vs humanism in sociological science? Sustainability of one and/or the other approach in contemporary sociology;

6. Theoretical and methodological pluralism in XXI century sociology: an advantage or limitation of contemporary sociology;
7. Does the latest variation of neoliberalism – *globalism* – expressed also through a flexible work place, demand for people to engage in several jobs in order to have a life of ‘better’ (material) quality, contributed to a decline in a critical stance against the system, guiding sociologists towards opportunist and conformist acceptance of such a state of affairs?
8. Why is there in Serbia (and in the world) a crisis of some sociological disciplines while other are simply thriving? On the origin of new sociological disciplines;
9. What is the research practice of sociology? Fundamental and applied research in sociology. On conjuncture of sociological research;
10. Significance of sociological ‘across the border’ connectivity and possibilities of *area study* approach in the spaces of the former Yugoslavia/Balkans/southwestern Europe?
11. Is scientific/professional organising of sociologists through *Serbian Sociological Association* sufficient in order to protect the interests of the profession or some other and more effective means of resistance to marginalisation of the profession (e.g. a syndicate) is required?

The above listed topics are only a selection of broader spectrum of questions facing sociological community in need of answers. However, we welcome other topics, questions and areas that interested participants consider important and in need of critical evaluation – be it scientifically or professionally. **We welcome all contributions, empirical and theoretical alike.**

Important dates:

1 September 2018: abstract submission deadline (title, summary of up to 200 words and up to 5 keywords in English, Serbian or Russian language. Participants from the former Yugoslav republics can submit papers in their own languages with English or Russian translation).

15 September 2018: information about paper acceptance.

Conference day, **November 10** (November 11 as well, depending on the number of accepted papers)

31 December 2018: submission of the final version of the paper, the *guidelines* will be issued to all whose papers are accepted for presentation.

The work will be organized in sections depending on the number structure of topics and participants.

During the conference break the Annual assembly meeting of the Serbian Sociological Association will be held. Anyone who would like to participate in the work of the Assembly have to be in good standing on **1 September 2018**. We have also planned promotion of sociological publications, as well as books sale with discounts give by publishers.

For international participants there is no conference fee, and every participant will receive conference material (including a printed book of abstracts), refreshment during the breaks, conference dinner, as well as the printed book of the conference papers.

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Niš!

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