



School of Advanced Social Studies

# “Book of Abstracts”

Slovenian Social Science Conference 2022

## “Back to History? Coping with re-emerging social challenges for humanity”

Organizing institutions:

- Slovenian National Committee of the UNESCO Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST)
- School of Advanced Social Studies / Fakulteta za uporabne družbene študije v Novi Gorici
- International Sociological Association: Junior Sociologists Network
- Slovenian Social Science Association

June 17 - 18, 2022, Slovenia

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Slovenian National Committee of the UNESCO Management of Social Transformations Program (MOST),  
and  
School of Advanced Social Studies, Nova Gorica, Slovenia  
in cooperation with  
Slovenian Social Science Association and ISA Junior Sociologists Network

## **14th SLOVENIAN SOCIAL SCIENCE CONFERENCE** **“Back to history? New and re-emerging social challenges for humanity”**

### **Scope of the Conference**

Addressing the issues of sustainable development in the context of technological advancements seems to be more important than ever. The recent outbreak of the coronavirus has enormously underscored some severe weaknesses of the global social system, revealing contested and incongruent processes of modernisation. On the one hand, we can observe global economic flows bounded to the ideology praising continuous growth and atomised consumers, which has devastating impacts on the natural environment and social interactions. On the other, we still face the dominance of national authorities preserving their interests despite challenges whose consequences reach far beyond national borders.

Social and environmental challenges are inextricably intertwined with technological ones. The immense expansion of information, communication and transport technologies has fused the physical, digital and biological worlds, Digitalisation and automatization - based on big data, artificial intelligence, internet of things - have permeated all aspects of society. One can observe exponential technological revolutions, including the rise intelligent processes, integrated reality, new energy matrix, digital governance, bioprogramming and neurogamification – referring to industry and economic development, political actions and governance, cultural encounters or everyday practices of human beings. Technology provides ground-breaking opportunities for development, improve the quality of life, health care, business infrastructure, ease the working conditions, encourage learning and creativity, improve trust towards decision-making institutions, connect people through the means of communication and transport - and encourage synergies between all that listed. However, it also poses severe threats for human society. When it is exploited for purely profit and power-seeking endeavours, it contributes to the existing deterioration of the natural environment and causing ecological disasters. It also deepens the exclusion of population who cannot afford those technologies or lack the skills required to use them, it leads to losing jobs, digital divide, digital illiteracy – and thus providing grounds for exclusivist, narrow-minded thinking among individuals and groups.

There is a mutual dialectical influence between technology and society on which the conference focuses; while digitalisation is causing a great impact on human interactions, cognition, organisations, and institutions – its emergent settings influence back upon the development and implementation of technological innovation within the society

Within the Conference we will deal with these challenges observing them in the interplay among structure, culture and individuals opening a variety of burning issues to be explored. Based on this, our conference shall primarily but not exclusively focus on:

a) Techno-social challenges for sustainable development: in terms of dehumanisation, alienation and anomie, social and political instability, fragmentation and polarisation, excessive manipulation, surveillance and repression, deepening inequality and exclusion, accelerating environmental degradation and pollution.

b) Democratic governance and sustainable steering: in terms of the governance as politics (expression of different interests, political competition and relations between political actors) as well as to the governance as public policy (creation and implementation of different public policies). Governance as a key social actor in providing a proper normative and regulatory settings enabling not only technological but also sustainable dimensions of society to flourish

c) Organisational structures and processes that encourage technological and social innovations: in terms of companies, NGOs, media, academic institutions etc., which have to enable effective responses to excessive individualisation and the technology related risks. There is a challenge of adapting the organisational processes to the current social and economic problems by creating new jobs, personal wealth, and/or contributing to solidarity

d) The impacts that digitalisation on individuals: in terms of its affects on individuals' interactions, cognition, attitudes, values, identities, creativity, productivity. There is also a role of digital literacy, learning and reflexivity for individuals' agency in responsible behaviour, which one should find important.

# The Agenda

## Friday, 17 June

The activities from 9:00-17:00 are related to Connecting Europe for Social Sustainability and hosted by Jean Monnet Chair European Transnational Governance and Sustainable Development

**09:00 – 09:30 Welcome address and Introductory presentation**

**09:30 – 10:30 Keynote speech with discussion The Challenges for Peace and Solidarity**

Associate Professor Dr. Igor Jelen, University of Trieste, Italy

**10:30 – 11:00 Coffe Break**

**11:00 – 12:30 Paper presentations**

**Tope Akinyetun, Sarah Adedini, Aihonsu Ahoton, Jamiu Alausa**

*The rise of Autocracy in the Sabel of Africa: Insights from resource curse theory*

**Vikas Sharma, Ashwani Kumar**

*Understanding of nationalism and Ethnicity among refugees: a Sociological study of Rohingya Muslims In the city of Delhi*

**Janja Mikulan**

*Possible links between individual radicalization and trauma*

**11:00 – 13:00 Jean Monnet Module: Sustainable Industry 4.0 for European Union: Necessary policy focus when moving forward in EU (2022) (parallel session)**

Moderator: Assist. prof. dr. Erika D. Uršič

The session will invite scholars to contribute to the session with their own research insights, scientific reviews and discussion.

- Introductory presentation of the Module leader and its activities.
- Keynote speakers with discussion and /or
- Paper presentations by international, and national participants and students

**11:00 – 13:00 Jean Monnet Chair: Strategic Observatory of Europe 2030 (SOE 2030) (parallel session)**

Moderator: Assist. prof. dr. Victor Cepoi

**12:30 – 14:00 Lunch Break**

**14:00 – 15:30 International roundtable: Connecting local and transnational social solidarity: Research findings and initiatives**

**Romina Gurashi**

*What reply to current global crises? The correctives of Sustainable Peace theories to socio-political disintegration*

**Maria Isabel Nieto Fernández**

*Strengthen EU/NATO relationship: a necessity, now more than ever*

**Ananda Rao Kuriti**

*Impact of Transnational Capitalism on Developing Countries like India: How do come up with emerging challenges?*

**Ilaria Iannuzzi**

*Solidarity and smartness: some reflections on this social challenge*

**14:00 – 16:00 Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence: Strategic discourses and structural, discursive, technological and agential selectivities (2022) (parallel session)**

Moderator: Assist. prof. dr. Erika D. Uršič

**14:00 – 16:00 Jean Monnet Module: Technology Innovation Societies 2030 (TIC2030) (parallel session)**

Moderator: Assist. prof. dr. Victor Cepoi

**15:30 – 15:45 Coffee Break**

**15:45 – 17:00 Learning and teaching about the EU issues and social sustainability: exchange of experiences (parallel session)**

**Maria Skivko**

*Challenges for sustainable urban development: space redefinition and local tourism practices in the time of/ after quarantine restrictions*

**Petra Kleindienst**

*The Realization of Human Dignity in Judicial Proceedings*

**Tamara Besednjak Valič**

*Discourses swirling the implementation of the EU New Industrial Strategy*

**15:45 – 17:00 Dealing with media literacy and media education: the case of MELIA Observatory project (parallel session)**

Moderator: Dr. Alenka Pandiloska Jurak, SASS

Discussants:

Prof. Matevž Tomšič, SASS

Dr. Leo Mršić, Algebra, Croatia

Dr. Martin Charvat, Metropolitan University Prague, Czechia

# The Agenda

## Saturday, 18 June

The activities from 9:00-14:00 are related to the thematic session Social science research methods for understanding and providing sustainable development in the EU context – hosted by Jean Monnet Module Sustain4EU

### 9:00 – 10:30 Introductory presentation

*Keynote speech with discussion on Social Entrepreneurship and Integration of Migrants in the EU Context*

Professor Matej Makarovič, SASS

Discussant: Dr. Janja Mikulan

### 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

### 11:00 – 12:30 Paper presentations

#### Brigita Primc

*The moderation effect of SDGs and Circular Economy toward Food Consumerism: A Systematic Literature Review*

#### Melissa Sessa

*The Role of Technological Sustainability in the Smart Society*

#### Tea Golob

*Measuring reflexivity for Sustainable Development*

### 12:30 – 14:00 Lunch Break / Parallel activity: Students section

### 11:00 – 12:30 Media challenges and digitalisation

#### Mateja Rek, Predrag Ljubotina, Anja Bašin,

*Media Literacy of Preeschool Children in Slovenia*

#### Fatjona Haka

*Social media and well-being: An interpretative phenomenological study with Albanian 15-18 year old adolescents*

#### Dhirendra Kumar Sahoo

*Misinformation on Social Media: An Analysis on How to Identify and Combat Fake News in Ind*

### 15:30 – 15:45 Coffee Break

### 15:45 – 17:45 Chair POPEDEM Annual Session: Advantages and deficiencies of the European system of democratic governance

Session chair: Prof. Matevž Tomšič, FAM

Discussants:

Prof. Peter Verovšek, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom

Prof. Jernej Letnar Čerňič, New University, Slovenia

Prof. Gabriel Badescu Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj, Romania

*The session is to introduce of the Jean Monnet Chair Populism and the Future of European Democracy (POPEDEM) and its current activities. Its focus is on the character of European multilevel system of democratic. What are its advantages, what are its deficiencies? How to connect democratic governance at national and transnational level? Are we facing with crisis of European democracy? Are European leaders fit for their mission? How to improve European system of democratic governance? We will also discuss learning and teaching about the system of European democratic governance: exchange of experiences.*

### 17:45 – 18:00 Concluding Remarks



## Igor Jelen:

### *The Challenges for Peace and Solidarity*

#### **Abstract**

I like to think like this: human beings have always tried to organize themselves to better face the various challenges, to solve the various problems of survival, depending on the circumstances, applying criteria of collaboration or competition for resources that can be limited or renewable, material or immaterial. I mean, human beings are characterized by a spontaneous connatured tendency to improve their condition – (otherwise, I suppose, we wouldn't be here today, since our ancestors would be already perished in some merciless tribal vendetta). In this way, since the primordial times, the societies have gone from an economy of mere exploitation of resources, human and natural, from a commandeering economics, from a predatory politics, in which the war for resources is a way to survive, to a more efficient life, developing gradually codes, techniques, values, ways of communicate, which allow an economy of collaboration, innovation, value creation, inducing and requiring increasingly complex relationships, specialization, work understood as a commitment, not as the mere execution of a task. All this creates efficiency, which stratified and, with the times, integrated within social systems, simple or articulated, giving rise to complex networks of relations prospecting the duration of life cycles for individuals, families and organizations; all this thanks to the accumulation of experience – increasingly codified -, to the production of knowledge, facilitating long-term investments and long-term planning. In short, build instead than to destroy, planting and sowing instead of plundering. This is the schema widely assumed by the scientists of the early human society evolution, a kind of trade-off between “wild” (not codified) competition and start-up of some form of collaboration, becoming with the generation passages more productive but also more complicated. All this is what we usually define as «civilization», then a way of life that gradually matures the idea that violence, and associated phenomena (then war), that groups used indiscriminately in ancient times, just as an economic device, would assume gradually a negative significance. In fact societies observed that the consequences of violent acts are irreversibly: they destroy definitively, and furthermore they immediately start a chain of effects - perverse and collateral - that feed the conflicts itself up, configuring vicious circles, becoming eventually a mode of government, an un-interrupted war, producing and inventing always new enemies, both, internal and external. Finally, they become a way of legitimizing a permanent state of conflict, with repression becoming a standard – but risking to bring the whole society to self-destruction. As a populist slogan says: »making war... is always better than working », at least it is simpler; but counterbalanced by a further slogan, that says “make love, no war”, as during the 68ies revolution, inaugurating, actually, renovating a kind of “critical thinking” about war and violence. It can be said that many or all the philosophies, indeed simply human reflection of all the times are thinking about a way of limiting war, and of making war something controllable, to be limited through the superimposition of codes, depending on the available technology and knowledge (international trade, defining rules of engagement, organizing permanent armies, signing treaties, administrative apparatuses, diplomacy, trans-national organizations, a «red line» telephone, an alarm device etc. ); and also simply demonstrating that the organizing of the work would be a much better way in order to find a solution for all-day and for any kind of problem. Aristoteles said that war become often „a hunt for men” [and of women and children], that is the most precious resource, therefore it can be said that the awareness of

the purely destructive character of war emerged already in ancient times, at the moment of the very formation of an idea of civil life. It is not the case of being too didactic or academic, but also in geography, and in geopolitics, the reflection has evolved in the last decades and centuries in diverse schools, targeting significances and impacts of the conflict. It is possible to enlist – among the others – the three mainstream school, then especially: a) »organicistic« vision, which assumes the human political units (nations, states, empires, tribes...) as indivisible Darwinian organisms, always fighting each other, collocated in a natural context, functioning with natural laws; the war is assumed as unavoidable, even when tendential codified by rules (chivalry rules, reciprocity, ritual duels, epics, oral consuetudes); b) the functionalist one (associated usually a parliamentarian organization), which develops a method based on specialization, and on the analysis of socio-geographic systems, of forms and contents of a certain territorial »container«, and of the various categories: then classification and type of borders, centre-periphery schema, shape of the national territory (in order to assure security), in order to measure certain parameters (exposure of the territorial »body«), both, in qualitative and quantitative way. And the c) »critical« one, present in all the epochs in diverse formulations, but typical of the late 1900s; it assumes the state-politics as fundamentally ambiguous, and the democracy always at the risk of degenerating into rhetoric, into a conspiracy of invisible powers that make popular participation a ritual, a liturgy; therefore it proposes remedies for the ageing, namely »old democracies«, which risk accumulating inefficiencies, waste, rent positions, lobbies, costs, that is (speculative) »bubbles« that risk overwhelming them (one of the most important is that of »over-complacency« in fact). Any of these theories developed a certain method, in order to deal with such phenomenon, the war, then to justify, to prevent or anyway for making controllable the use of violence. Organicists (realists, nationalists etc.) assume the reality is fundamentally »bad«, because the resources are scarce, the human intelligence limited, and that the evil can manifest in any moment in the natural, artificial and cultural life - so we have to be ready, »si vis pacem, para bellum«. Usually they assume an exclusive idea of identity, of belonging (indivisible sovereignty, nation and nationalist state, bilateral relations). They hardly consider the human suffering, since the individual has to be ready to sacrifice he self, and since the collective good is essential, namely the priority. Functionalists consider a pragmatic approach, defining war, and connected elements like aggressiveness, superiority ideology, indiscriminate repression, unjustified use of force etc., as phenomena, that have to be limited - progressively - with regulations, multi-national governance, international organizations. They would predispose a path in order to arrive with the time to - almost – extinction of the war intended as a very dangerous instrument to be possibly avoided: as many analysts said until few weeks before, the conventional war became anything »obsolete«, not just non-ethical, but also non-useful; they predispose a schema of interventions capable – in the intentions - of almost deterministically keeping the war under control, pacifying international relations. Functionalists assume a “rational” approach, then considering fundamentally possible for the human kind the understanding of a problem, and a consequent “positive” reaction looking for the solution of that problem (a kind of neo-illuministic attitude), namely for any problem, This not just for war and violence, but also e.g. climate change, renewable energy (preventing shortages, monopolies and speculations), productivity in agro-food programs, sanitary / epidemic risks, catastrophes and natural hazard, drug trafficking, organized crime globalized networks, development questions, strategic blackmailing for nuclear weapons, etc. In international crisis (wars, rebellion, guerrilla movements etc.) they assume the necessity of elaborating an intervention procedure, which is divided into phases, from collective to individual sanctions, to embargoes, disarmed and armed intervention, regulating «rule of engagement», gradually „occupying” the battlefield with humanitarian help, NGOs etc., starting procedure of peace building, making, enforcing etc. All that represents the theoretical base for the new disciplines like «conflict studi-

es», «peace science» and irenology. The third school is the „critical” approach, that considers the fact that, notwithstanding the efforts, the war does not disappear from the human experience, at the contrary. It intends to understand how to avoid finally the war: it assumes that competition in human and political life - understood as dynamic elements, inserted in a natural context -, can degenerate to the point of creating the risk of self-destruction, then it assumes the non-linearity of events, namely of causal chains. Although, the critical reflection assumes the ethical necessity of the intervention, then solidarity at any scale (no indifference: »when the neighbor's house burns, you have to help him put out the fire«), at the same time it is aware of complexity of the scenario (»primum non nocere«). “Criticismists” assume the necessity of elaborating an intervention procedure (likewise the functionalists) but it has to be based on de-construction (of scenarios, of politics, of discourses etc.), then on the identification of the insider effects, which are those, often invisible, that go beyond the immanent and apparent “casus belli”, which almost deterministically lead to the risk of war, that would produce often absurd consequences, non-desired effects, paradoxes, etc., and fundamentally counter-productive effects (side effects, distortive and unpredictable impacts). Such effects can be articulated in a) „previous” (and permanent) ones, like: »lobbies« underground work, military apparatuses in search of areas for low-cost exercises, arms manufacturers in search of areas for testing weapons or »landfills« of expired munitions and armaments, or even “tour court” battlefield for “proxy war” or covers for local vendettas; and so on for further speculations on »commodities«, for “rener states” that have an interest in the war producing effects of chaos, of rising prices for commodities (energy, raw material, food) and induced scarcity. And b) „consequent” ones, then induced, to be considered a product of a specific war: among them the various »warlords«, contrabandists, »trafficking«, and various forms of war economy just appearing in a certain conflict context. This is especially the case with the sense of hatred and revenge, in particular for violence perpetrated on civilian innocent populations, induced by the violence unleashed by the war itself (assuming that the practice of violence may create forms of political- physiologic addiction, a kind of “rambo” effect). But the reality today shows that all these approaches are insufficient to produce any analysis. It seems that in some cases the practiced hate would justify the hate in itself, without need of any cover, ideology, justification (Putin, V.V., media transmitted discourses of February 21. and 24, 2022, in which he deliberately denies the right and the dignity of sovereign state to Ukraine, in fact justifying the destruction of that state and of its population). We cannot longer assume any «good will» by all the players on the scenario, and the respect of “the rules of the game” it is no longer «taken for granted»; we need a new approach. This appear as something new: history is not over, not even geo-politics; we may observe the emergence of new forms of government that base their selves deliberately on hate, for justifying a permanent use of violence, for justifying repression both internally and internationally, with war feeding further war in a vicious circle, with violence that seems to create a peculiar «genre de vie». The doubt is, is it a brand new form of government? Or a regression to a primordial one? Whatever we assume, it is clear that there is a need to renew our knowledge, otherwise we risk that the new century that opened with so many expectations, turns out to be a new Dark Age, under the threat of hate-based governments, that seems to make deliberately of the hate a way of doing, „a new normal”.

**Keywords: political geography, use of force in international relations**

## **Maria Skivko:**

### *Challenges for sustainable urban development: space redefinition and local tourism practices in the time of/after quarantine restrictions*

#### **Abstract**

The COVID-pandemic and quarantine restrictions for travelling and social distancing changed how to perceive and define the neighbourhood spaces. On the one hand, restrictions on international tourism forced the development of local tourism practices, stimulated the realization of innovative ideas based on the local heritage and culture. Moreover, it emphasized the need for advancement and investments in local infrastructure. On the other hand, familiar and habitual local spaces received new symbolic and social meanings. In other words, the local neighbourhood became the area both for local tourism activities and spots for entertainments for locals. Local tourism in the quarantine conditions demonstrated the ways to explore the unknown in regular practices and to invest in local culture. Furthermore, local tourism practices established the possibilities to socially distantiate from others due to the safety reasons – at the same time, not going too far from home according to the pandemic restrictions.

The concerns about sustainable development relate urban problems and space redefinition: sustainable cities and urban communities with economic growth, sufficient working places, innovative infrastructure, and effective institutions can represent the successful implementation of sustainable strategies. The COVID-19 pandemic clearly demonstrated the emergence of social challenges and highlighted the necessity of implementing sustainable strategies for efficient functioning of social world.

City routes are changing, urban neighbourhoods become the farthest destination. It creates a new fashion of workation and staycation, such as reorganizing spaces, distances, and territories in order to experience something new in the well-known urban context. By limiting international travelling, the pandemic provokes creativity and innovative ideas that positively influence local urban and tourism infrastructure and human-environment interaction.

This research explores how local tourism practices can collaborate with cultural territory branding in order to redefine urban spaces. Based on the case of local tourism agency in Samara (Russia), this research: i) explores the local urban spaces play as space for tourism; ii) represents urban spaces as a reason for (symbolic, financial, creative) investments; iii) redefines local urban spaces that participate in the interaction between human and environment.

**Keywords: sustainable urban development, cultural territory branding, local tourism practices, urban neighbourhood, space redefinition**

## **Tamara Besednjak Valič:**

*Discourses swirling the implementation of the EU New Industrial Strategy*

### **Abstract**

It was the Lisbon treaty to determine the main goal of the EU to become: “the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion”. Since the Lisbon Treaty, the Europe 2020 was adopted, and nowadays Europe 2030 is still working towards the same goal. However, since the time of the Lisbon Treaty, several global events and processes have taken place - from the global crisis in 2008 to Covid-19 pandemics in 2020 and the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Nowadays, the New Industrial Strategy is only a part of the Europe 2030 agenda. Still, it follows the aim to deliver the twin transitions: make the EU industry more competitive globally and enhance Europe’s strategic autonomy. The present contributions will discuss the narratives and statuses surrounding individual groups of EU countries with respect to reaching the goals of the New industry Strategy. Special attention will be posed to questions of technology transfer and protection of intellectual property as two of the tools to contribute to the New Industry Strategy goals.

**Keywords:** EU, New Industrial Strategy, discourses, Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence Strategic Observatory Europe 2030

## **Ilaria Iannuzzi:**

### *Solidarity and smartness: some reflections on this social challenge*

#### **Abstract**

The covid-19 pandemic has stressed the use of the smartness category and it has highlighted even more the importance of the concept of “community”. A central role is assumed by “solidarity”: we know how important solidarity is between people, between communities and between States. Technology can certainly play a fundamental role in the affirmation and development of conditions of solidarity. But there are several critical aspects, which we believe it is essential to analyze.

For instance, what does being a ‘smart community’ mean? When can the community be truly smart? What dimensions and processes does the smartness allude to? Can we speak about a new social order?

“Community” seems to emerge where social interaction is connoted according to certain “distinctive qualities” and therefore emerges as “a way of being of social relations”, capable of producing solidarity, trust and equality. In other words, there is community only when the social bond is generated. The smart community is called on, in this sense, to produce a social bond, but if it has been necessary to coin a new expression, this aspect obviously does not seem to be enough to make it a smart social unit.

To understand the potential and limits of the conceptual category of the smart community, it seems appropriate to focus the attention on the opposition *Gemeinschaft-Gesellschaft* by Tönnies. As we know, the community, according to Tönnies, represents a natural organism – it is “real and organic life” – within which a common will and the collective interests predominate. Its members are limitedly individualized and a “global and spontaneous” solidarity reigns in it.

As we know, society, on the other hand, represents an “ideal and mechanical formation”, an “artificial and conventional construction” which is composed of individuals who are separated from each other, since each of them aims at satisfying one’s own personal interest.

The concrete challenge that the smart community therefore seems to face is not so much its identification with the pole of the community or with that of society, but rather its insertion along the continuum represented by the two poles.

In this paper we try to reflect on criticalities about smart community, with the aim to discuss them with a sociological point of view and we do not intend to outline a decisive outcome on the smart community, but a starting point for further possible future research.

**Keywords:** Solidarity, smartness, smart community, community, society

## **Melissa Sessa:**

### *The Role of Technological Sustainability in the Smart Society*

#### **Abstract**

Within the many definitions of sustainability, a specific niche is derived from technological sustainability. The combination of sustainability and digital (Beretta 2019) seems to give rise to new future scenarios, which, in the smart society (Iannone et al. 2019), are developed in the smart environment. What is meant by technological sustainability? And what is its role in the smart society? The reconciliation between technological innovation - traceable in smart devices, and in the ICT technologies of the smart society - and technological sustainability invites a deep reasoning on the pathological implications of this union. The intervention aims to provide a critical view of the processes of technological sustainability within the smart society by describing, at first, the characteristics, and then, more deeply, highlighting the contradictions. What are the processes implemented by the smart society to meet the challenges of technological sustainability? What is the role of technology in this sense? The relationship among smartness, society and technology seems to be placed at a paradoxical crossroads: on the one hand, society creates and enlivens the technologies that have contributed to polluting the world; on the other hand, those same technologies have the potential to save it. What, then, is the future of the smart environment? The watchwords are development, growth and innovation. Innovation is therefore asked to increase consumption, i.e. to create new products that are increasingly attractive and desirable for consumers. It doesn't matter if they are useless or polluting products. Behind this link lies a dangerous dark side made up of new types of emissions, i.e. ewaste (Wildmer et al. 2005).

**Keywords:** technology, smart society, sustainability, ewaste

## **Romina Gurashi:**

*What reply to current global crises? The correctives of Sustainable Peace theories to socio-political disintegration*

### **Abstract**

In recent years, the world has changed under the impetus of global challenges that the World Bank's lead economist, Samuel Freije-Rodríguez, has called »the three C' s crisis«, i.e. conflicts, climate change and Covid-19. In addition to these, we must include economic crises that are the result of a dissociation between the globalized economy, social conflicts, and local or national policies that do not reflect global policies.

In light of the assumption that these crises are not necessarily insurmountable since similar situations have already been faced in the past, it is possible to hypothesize that these disruptive events represent the price to be paid for a social reorganization that, on the one hand, increasingly dissociates social actors from their own socio-economic system, and on the other, produces new trends in world disorder. Then, the question the researcher may consider is whether Sustainable Peace, in its dimension of science that studies the causes of the increase and decrease of mass violence, the conditions associated with social changes and the economic and environmental processes through which these changes occur, could be able to offer some kind of remedy to these problems. What are those correctives? Are these correctives transversal to all countries of the world or do they apply only to countries with a certain economic and social system?

These are some of the questions the researcher will try to answer by carrying out extensive bibliographic research on the most recent theoretical contributions of this specific area of social sciences. Through the analysis of documents on peaceful social systems created by tribal groups (Iroquois), nations (European Union and Switzerland), regional groups (the Australian Aborigines of the Great Western Desert) we will try to understand how peaceful social systems develop in practice and how they manage to promote positive, cooperative and inter-societal relationships aimed at recomposing systems in crisis. In doing so, the researcher will always take into account the role played by environmental conditions in the twofold sense of natural and socio-cultural environment.

**Keywords:** crisis, violence, sustainable peace, correctives, change



## **Tope Akinyetun, Sarah Adedini, Aihonsu Ahoton, Jamiu Alausa:**

*The rise of Autocracy in the Sahel of Africa: Insights from resource curse theory*

### **Abstract**

The countries in the Sahel, aside from being located in the same geopolitical region, also share similar socioeconomic and sociopolitical challenges. This includes political instability, insecurity, poor governance, climate change and democratic erosion – among others. The corrosion of the democratic gains recorded since the spread of democracy in the 1990s and the rise of autocratic regimes has become prevalent in the last decade. The subversion of the electoral process, limited freedom and military takeovers are an indication of the spread of autocracy in Africa (generally) and the Sahel (specifically). The paper which is anchored on the resource curse theory argues that the Sahel is rich in natural resources that when not properly managed breed corruption and increase the chances of conflict and the likelihood of military takeover. More so, faced with weak institutions, autocrats take advantage of abundant resources to increase patronage networks at the expense of development and democratic growth. The paper found that the rise of illiberal regimes has been on the rise in Africa; suggesting a wave of autocracy. This is evident in the spate of autocratic and highly defective democracies in the region; one-party dominance; re-emergence of military coups; and circumvention of term limits. It is therefore concluded that electoral autocracy is on the rise in Africa and is a common phenomenon in the Sahel. This is given impetus by weak institutions which makes it difficult for rulers to utilize resource wealth for human capital development. To this end, the paper adopts a qualitative approach that relies on secondary data sourced from peer-reviewed journal articles, government reports, briefs and internet sources.

**Keywords:** Authoritarianism, democratization, governance, military coup, resource curse



## **Tea Golob, Matej Makarovič:**

*Measuring reflexivity for sustainable development*

### **Abstract**

The paper explores the role of meta-reflexivity in responsible concerns and actions oriented toward achieving a sustainable society. Based on the case study of Slovenia, this article addresses individuals' social and environmental responsibility by considering the relationships between their attitudes, intentions and behavior. It draws on a survey questionnaire that includes the reflexivity measurement tool. The path-analysis is applied to consider the aspects of responsibility as endogenous variables, while the social/cultural conditions (age, gender, educational level, income and the survey wave) and meta-reflexivity as a specific mode of inner dialog are included as exogenous variables. A coherent index of socially and environmentally responsible behavior can be constructed and explained by social/cultural conditions and meta-reflexivity.

**Keywords:** reflexivity, Slovenia, quantitative methods, social morphogenesis, solidarity



## Janja Mikulan:

*Individual radicalization is becoming a critical social challenge around the globe, strongly linked with the questions of peace and sustainability.*

### Abstract

In the last two decades, the processes of individual radicalization are attracting bigger scholarly attention, especially since the United States of America (US) and (Western) Europe have experienced high levels of (political) violence and terrorist attacks as the extreme form of radicalization. In recent years most perpetrator groups responsible for terrorist attacks in US and Europe were right wing radicals, especially white supremacists/nationalists and anti-Muslim extremists, as well as Jihadi-inspired extremists (University of Maryland 2020) (Global Terrorism Database 2020). Further, there has been an outflux of jihadist “foreign fighters” traveling to the Middle East, especially to Iraq and Syria, to join Daesh/ISIS. Such trajectories have created a necessity to gain deeper understanding of reasons that underpin radicalization processes.

While there have been significant theoretical advances in understanding the process of radicalization and the science concludes that individual radicalization is manifestation of complex interaction of several factors on different levels, the empirical evidence remains scarce and debates inconclusive. Thereby a strand of scholarly research in recent years has started to explore whether academic literature on trauma might enhance our understanding of how these factors contribute to radicalization. This strand of research includes empirical studies into radicalisation pathways that have used trauma informed frameworks as well as theoretical studies identifying potential synergies between these literatures (Lewis in Marsden 2021).

Thereby the main objectives of this contributions are to (I) identify some of the main gaps in understanding individual radicalization and (II) to offer an overview of possible links between trauma and radicalization that would enhance the understanding of how exposure to different forms of trauma (personal, collective, intergenerational) and their interaction increase a person’s vulnerability to radicalization.

**Keywords: Radicalization, trauma, literature review**

## **Ananda Rao Kuriti:**

*Impact of Transnational Capitalism on Developing Countries like India: How do come up with emerging challenges?*

### **Abstract**

Capitalism has always been a world system; it was never simply national or regional. It expanded from the onset, ultimately engulfing the entire world, and depending throughout its existence on a web of worldwide trade relations. Up to the 1980s, at least since the Second World War and in some cases since the beginning of the twentieth century, there had been a general narrowing of differences in the income available to individuals and families. Income-related inequalities, notably in the ownership of capital and other assets, in access to a variety of services and benefits, and in the personal security that money can buy, are growing. The popular contention that the rich get richer and the poor get poorer appears to be largely based on fact, particularly within the present global context. There is also greater inequality in the distribution of opportunities for remunerated employment, with worsening unemployment and underemployment in various parts of the world including India affecting a disproportionate number of people at the lower end of the socio-economic scale. A transnational capitalist class has emerged in this era as the agent of global capitalism. The new transnational phase entails a shift from a world economy to a global economy. Even, there were significant periods of de-globalization in the late nineteenth century and in the first half of the twentieth century. The globalization of the production process breaks down and functionally integrates what were previously national circuits into new global circuits of accumulation. The world-system perspective contends that the circuits of capital have been organized as an axial division of labour linking the core with the non-core at least since the emergence of the Europe centered world system 500 years ago. Robinson (2008) argued that globalization has gone to a new higher level of integration in the recent period, but he does not see that there were earlier waves of integration that were separated by troughs of de-globalization. The methodological background of this research is based on the review of secondary resources from books, research reports, journals' papers and newspaper clippings. Leslie Sklair's global system theory has been applied in this paper to analyze the reasons for the rise and fall of states, income, inequality, social unrest and imperialism in various levels. Further, this paper will examine how transnational capitalism effecting to the developing countries like India with their regulatory system and what are the ways to resolute such issues in democratic way for good governance.

**Keywords: capitalism, war, global economy, global system**



## **María Isabel Nieto Fernández:**

*Strengthen EU/NATO relationship: a necessity, now more than ever*

### **Abstract**

This paper aims to analyze the evolution of the EU/NATO relationship in recent decades and particularly with the implementation of the EU's Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP).

To improve knowledge of the trends of different approaches in the EU about this relationship is another of our goals. For this, the cases of Spain, France, Portugal, and Slovenia will be examined. Strengthen the cooperation will be vital for the EU, considering the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the international environment with increasing geopolitical competition between the great powers, as well.

**Keywords:** EU, NATO, relationship, Strategic Compass. Strategic Concept

## **Brigita Primc:**

### *The moderation effect of SDGs and Circular Economy toward Food Consumerism: A Systematic Literature Review*

#### **Abstract**

**Aim:** The research aims to examine current peer-reviewed literature about Food Consumers Habits toward their Awareness of Sustainable Practices and Emergence of Circular Economy.

**Method:** The moderating factor is the Food Consumerism, moderating on two constructs: Sustainable Development Goals and Circular Economy, which are the independent variables. A systematic literature review was conducted using Taylor&Francis, Emerald and Scopus database. Data collection was carried out on the base of Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guideline.

**Result:** The results concluded that the independent variables Sustainable Development Goals and Circular Economy, have significant relationships towards the Food Consumerism habits.

**Conclusion:** Awareness of Sustainable Practices and Emergence of Circular Economy help to improve Food Consumerism habits in the way of Food Waste reduction and Lifestyle changes.

**Keywords:** Sustainable Development Goals, Circular Economy, Food Consumerism

## **Mateja Rek, Predrag Ljubotina, Anja Bašin, Sabina Mešič:**

*Media Literacy of Preschool Children in Slovenia*

### **Abstract**

Due to the rapid development of digital technologies and the omnipresence of media in our lives, there is a growing interest and a greater demand for data, information and research infrastructure on media habits, education, and literacy. At the same time, the need for appropriate competencies and digital media awareness is rising and can therefore be met by preparing and updating quality guidelines, policies, and action plans. We must strive to ensure the transfer of important skills to society and individuals with strategically planned approaches, including the ability to use, analyse and evaluate and to actively participate in society. For that reason, we are collecting data on media habits in preschool children, in the scope of the Infrastructure Programme of the Faculty of Media – collecting, managing and archiving data on media literacy, led by dr. Mateja Rek.

We will present the ongoing collection of data, which is taking place in Slovenian kindergartens and in the homes of the pre-schoolers. Its social impact is showing the exposure to the media of both, preschool children (in the home environment and within organized care), as well as their parents and educators. Data is obtained on the basis of an online survey, one for parents and one for educators. Questions in the survey, which was sent to educators and parents also relate to the presence of media devices in the child's environment. An important part of the collection of data is to identify greater exposure to the media in relation to the effects on children's health and behaviour. The collection of data is conducted in 2022, and it was previously conducted in 2015. The report will be published on the web page of the Infrastructure Programme, at [www.pismenost.si](http://www.pismenost.si).

Keywords: media literacy, media education, preschool children, educators, parents, Slovenia

## **Petra Kleindienst:**

### *The Realization of Human Dignity in Judicial Proceedings*

#### **Abstract**

The paper refers to the realized dignity which is a dimension of human dignity that states the extent to which human dignity is realised/implemented in the case of a particular individual. While every human being is born with initial dignity, they do not necessarily simultaneously enjoy realized dignity. Such regulation is in accordance with Kant's practical imperative telling us that you should act in such a way that you always treat humanity, whether in your own person or in the person of any other, never simply as a means, but always at the same time as an end.

The requirement to respect human dignity and thus to pursue the greatest possible extent of realized dignity is particularly exposed in judicial proceedings. It should be stressed that the judiciary branch of power, as an actor judging the violations of human dignity, should be particularly thorough to not violate the dignity of individuals by its own actions and articulations. In constitutional democracy, a person should be regarded as a subject and not an object of authority; and someone's (self)realization should be the fundamental purpose of democratic regulation governed by the rule of law. Thus, this article focuses on the realization of human dignity in the judicial authority-individual relationship. We present the results of qualitative study conducted in Republic of Slovenia aiming to answer the research question of how the judicial authority can positively influence the realization of individual human dignity in judicial proceedings.

**Keywords:** human dignity, courts, rule of law, judicial proceedings, democracy



## Vikas Sharma:

*Understanding of nationalism and ethnicity among refugees: A sociological study of Rohingya muslims in the city of Delhi*

### Abstract

In the contemporary world of interconnectedness and interdependence, it is clear that global displacement has become an inescapable global problem with concern for refugees from every country. Numerous kinds of human migrations are part of society in any corner of the world. Of various types, the refugee movement has become an integral part of global history and present. Millions of people are forced to flee from their homes due to various reasons like religious wars, clashes on ethnic lines, state oppression, lack of resources and other socio-political reasons. The refugee crisis is considered an aspect of globalisation in the sense that it is a global problem. There are about sixty million populations of refugees in the world who have been forced to leave their houses. Therefore, migration and forced migration as global processes are today seen as an irreversible process and as Hardt and Negri in their influential book 'Empire' point out that reshaping social relations everywhere, immigration on this scale today reveals both the hostility of the multitude to the system of national borders and its tenacious desire for the cosmopolitan freedom.

India has accommodated thousands of refugees from neighbouring countries since its independence. Millions came from both wings of Pakistan immediately after partition, to be followed by the Tibetans, then hundreds of thousands from Bangladesh during that country's liberation war, and then the Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka, accounting for a steady flow of displaced peoples from the countries in India's neighbourhood. Though the number of refugees from Burma is relatively fewer their fate continues to attract attention because they mainly consisted of rejected people or unwanted migrants. These Rohingya (Burmese refugees) are important sites of nationalism and ethnicity in India. This paper is based on fieldwork in the national capital of India where Rohingya are located in an uncertain future of leaving home (Burma) and never being at the home again.

**Keywords: Rohingya Muslims, Migration, Hindutva, Humanitarian, Everyday life**

## **Fatjona Haka:**

*Social media and well-being: An interpretative phenomenological study with Albanian 15-18 year old adolescents*

### **Abstract**

The current research is an attempt to explore the relation between social media experiences of youths 15 to 18 and their self perception and general well being in Albania. As this field is almost unexplored in Albania, the research can be considered as a pioneer one within the country. Considering that the researcher was interested in first hand experiences and their interpretation by the participants, interpretative phenomenology is the method she applied. 12 youths, between 15 and 18, 9 females and 3 males.

3 major themes emerged from the semi structured in depth interviews that were chosen as a tool for data gathering: (1) self presentation; (2) connection to others and helpful activity; (3) negative affect.

There was a general consensus that social media is already an established part of youths' lives through which they find ways to express their selves, and receive pleasure which justifies its use despite its prejudicial and/or harmful effects.

**Keywords: social media; self presentation; well being; youths; interpretative phenomenology.**

## **Dhirendra Kumar Sahoo:**

### *Misinformation on Social Media: An Analysis on How to Identify and Combat Fake News in India*

#### **Abstract**

The internet has evolved significantly in the last twenty-five years. Internet connectivity became generally available in August 1995 but has remained a luxury, although one that is growing increasingly affordable. WhatsApp, Facebook, and YouTube are millions of rural Indians' first internet experiences. Even those with limited or no formal literacy use several messaging services to interact every day. Some exchange greetings, while others share useful information. The phone can link and organise individuals and groups so they can transmit information or ideas to billions of people around the world. Everyone can raise awareness, mobilise communities, and create debate. Hacking is the most common risk or difficulty associated with using social media, and for good reason, it accesses the user account of another individual and then steals all kinds of personal information from that account.

This paper focuses on the study related to fake news through social media and increasing cybercrime in India in general and South Asia in particular. It examines how social media and messaging platforms have also been used to bridge the gap between citizens and governance, society and social concerns, and victims of relief providers, among other things. When it comes to spreading disinformation online, a variety of tools and methods are at work. This includes persons purposefully spreading incorrect information, »bots« (social media accounts programmed by computers), and regular people who unintentionally pass along misinformation to their followers.

Fake news is an unfortunate side effect of social networking. As a result of misinformation, people can be manipulated for political or economic gain. How can you tell the difference between real and fake news? Since the rise of social media, conspiracy theories and misinformation have become increasingly commonplace in public debate. The government of India has taken various steps, including setting up a Fact Check Unit under the Press Information Bureau and notifying the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, under the Information Technology Act, 2000.

**Keywords: Social Media, Fake News, Cybercrime, Hacking, Information Technology Act, 2000**