

## Прикази

## Reviews

### **Research on Current Changes in Contemporary Society. New Books Published by the Institute of Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (II.)**

This book review of new books published by the Institute of Ethnology of SAS in years 2015 – 2017 is concerning the publications dedicated to such topics as civic movements, minority rights and problems, ageism or applied anthropology. All these themes are crossing borders not only between various groups of people, but also between various scientific sectors and scientific approaches.

Miroslava Hlinčíková and Martina Sekulová edited the book with the title *Integrácia ľudí s medzinárodnou ochranou na Slovensku: Hľadanie východísk* [Integration of People under International Protection in Slovakia: Seeking Solutions] in cooperation with Institute For Public Affairs in 2015, right before so-called „immigration crisis“. They analyse the integration of people under international protection in the context of state-created integration programmes aimed at supporting the process of integration of this group in society. In nine chapters, the authors closely observe the reflections of public authorities, the non-governmental sector and refugees, and subsequently formulate recommendations for each integration area. They thus seek to answer the question about how to set up an integration programme with positive impacts on refugees' daily life and integration, and how to compensate for their often hard beginnings in Slovakia.

Two other books were dedicated to the Roma people. The publications written by Ivana Šusterová *Život olašských žien* [The Life of Wallachian Women] from 2015 belongs to the few ones dealing with Wallachian Roma in Slovakia. In spite of the significant number of publications on the so-called Vlax Roma groups at the international level, the position of women has not been sufficiently explored so far in the works of foreign authors. The information of Ivana Šusterová from Slovak field work brings new data on the rules of behaviour and duties of Wallachian women. The author takes into consideration a wide range of aspects which bring this group closer to the reader. Among other things, she explores the category of respect, which is extremely important for this Roma community, and the Roma court institution. Wallachian Roma in Slovakia are considered a closed group. The text of this book, however, shows to the reader that a researcher who shows sincere interest in this community, respects his/her communicators and seeks not to offend them with inappropriate behaviour is able to gradually penetrate this community and depict its everyday life.

The fundamental book on Roma minority in Slovakia is titled *Čierno-biele svety. Rómovia v majoritnej spoločnosti na Slovensku* [The Black and White Worlds. Roma people in the Majority Society in Slovakia] and it was edited by Tatiana Podolinská and Tomáš Hrustič and published in 2016. These extensive proceedings consist of almost

600 pages and it was written by approximately 20 authors from Slovakia and also from abroad. In their contributions reader could better understand various contexts, causes and consequences of living together with people sometimes consider to be our enemies or - in the worst case - non-humans. We could read about Ethnic Stereotypes as Sources of Jokes about Roma (Arne B. Mann), Segregated Roma and Health Policies (Andrej Belák), Usury in segregated Romani settlements in East Slovakia (Tomáš Hrustič), Redefinition of *Romipen* in the Pentecostal Pastoral Discourse (Tatiana Podolinská), The impacts of „Orientalism“ in Academia and Policies on Cohabitation between Roma and the Majority Society (Elena Marushiakova, Vesselin Popov) and many more interesting topics. The main goal of this book was (according to its editors) „to make these black and white worlds more colourful“, and it was reached without any doubts.

The book of Ľubica Voľanská with the title „*V hlave tridsať, v križoch sto*“. *Starnutie v autobiografiách v Bratislave a Viedni* [„Old Bodies, Young Minds“. Ageing in Autobiographies from Bratislava and Vienna] published in 2016 is concentrated on up to date topic of ageing of European population. The speed of the demographic changes related to the ageing gave rise to fundamental questions asked both within public and academic discourse. The first chapter of the book describes the different approaches to the study of old age and ageing in certain scientific disciplines. Chapter 2 deals with the old-age pension scheme in Europe in 20<sup>th</sup> century, its design and from within the specific social context of Vienna (Austria) and Bratislava (Slovakia). In the next chapter are described autobiographies and life records from various archives and collections from both countries, which were the main source of the information for this book. In the last chapter we realize together with the author that the autobiographical texts reveal various old age limits. We also could discover not only main differences between elderly inhabitants of Vienna and Bratislava, but also a lot of common things, such as meaning of autonomy and independency or the value of self-respect of elderly people. This book is pioneering work in the given theme in Slovak ethnography.

The last reviewed book was edited in 2016 by Soňa G. Lutherová and Miroslava Hlinčíková and is called *Za hranicami vedy? Aplikovaná antropológia v spoločnosti*. [Beyond the Borders of Science? Applied Anthropology in Society]. Within public discourse in Slovakia, the meaning and (un)usefulness of social sciences is a very current topic. To the wider public, the world of science may seem strange and incomprehensible, almost as if it existed for its own sake. Hence, social scientists are facing a singular challenge: how to use their acquired knowledge and skills beyond the doors of academia?

Social anthropology and ethnology are social scientific disciplines that focus on people and culture of everyday life. They study people's life in various perspectives, such as in terms of notions, norms, ideals, identities and relations of individuals and social groups. First and foremost, they analyze what makes humans human. This vocation suggests an interest of anthropologists into current social problems, challenges and tensions. Therefore, the themes of anthropological and ethnological research include the development of urban and rural environment, minorities and migrants as well as communication between different social groups or cultures. This publication presents a selection of essential themes and approaches of applied anthropology. In individual chapters, six various authors reflect on the way we can apply particular anthropological and ethnological knowledge, skills and perspectives in social practice.

They perceive this through their own academic work, describing their own dilemmas and proposing solutions rising from their personal experience. In doing so, they try to give an answer to the question proposed in the title of this book: does the field of applied anthropology transcend the borders of science, or does it only broaden them?

All of these reviewed books confirms that scientists from the Institute of Ethnology of SAS in Bratislava give their attention not only to traditional culture, but also to the current global themes (such as collective identities, memory, religion, minorities or migration) using also new theoretical and methodological trends and approaches.

### **References**

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Vladimír Potančok

### **Miroslava Lukić Krstanović and Mirjana Pavlović, “Ethnic Symbols and Migrations: Serbian Communities in USA and Canada”, Belgrade, 2016, Institute of Ethnography SASA, Special Editions 87 - Ethnological Series, Book 85**

Мирослава Лукић Крстановић и Мирјана Павловић, „Етнички симболи и миграције: Српске заједнице у САД и Канади“, Београд, 2016, Етнографски институт САНУ, Посебна издања 87 – Етнолошка библиотека, књ. 85.

Сећам се врло добро, биле смо младе сараднице Етнографског института САНУ, када су Мими и Мира, средином 80-их година прошлог века, добиле могућност да крену пут Америке и Канаде да истражују етнички идентитет и пратеће етничке и културне симболе, друштвени живот и организације српских исељеника. Било је то у оквиру пројекта „Етнолошка студија српске емиграције и