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## Call for Papers

# VIII. Ethnology Without Borders

International Academic Conference

Department of Ethnology and Folklore Studies  
Faculty of Arts, Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra

Tradana (Civic Organization, Nitra)

Nitra (SLOVAKIA), 19th - 21st November 2019

The main aim of the conference is to create a platform for effective transmission of ideas, experience and current research results, and thus reinforce the scholarly debate among students of ethnology, social and cultural anthropology in V4 countries. Therefore the focus of the conference aims at two different topics with a relatively broad scope:

### 1) “Intangible Cultural Heritage”, “Traditional Culture” and Contemporary Rural Societies

The 1990s were marked by the intensified and diversified social processes in Central and Eastern European countries that resulted in further transformation of rural communities, and their cultural practices. These processes have been strongly connected with larger social dynamics, and often lead to varying results, which are constantly being shaped and evolving within given social or political contexts. Today, rural societies are seen rather as differentiated social environments, where various elements, layers and aspects of local culture represent sophisticated and flexible entities reacting to various impulses. New topics emerging from, and new cultural practices observed in rural areas may require revised approaches to field research, analysis and scholarly interpretation. Moreover, digital technologies have affected the methods that facilitate field research and the analytical processing of audio and audiovisual field recordings as well.



On the other hand, with regard to the current complexity of the economic and social context, i.e. globalization and the emergence of new paradigms, the conference will address the discourse surrounding Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereinafter ICH), as well. The aim is to point out possible paths for the future role of ethnologists, cultural anthropologists (in the academia) to generate such a discourse. This concerns not only the research and popularisation of ICH, various forms of cooperation among professionals, and representatives of local or regional cultures, but also the preservation of ICH, its valorisation and reuse as an important tool in the context of tourism, creative industry and education.

*What are the topics that you consider in the context of rural communities development as inspiring and urgent in the context of ethnological research? What forms and functions the elements of “traditional culture” acquire in the contemporary social context in rural communities? What theoretical, methodological issues do you meet during your research? How is it possible to apply the results of ethnological research and knowledge in the process of ICH protection, preservation etc.?*

## **2) Applied and Engaged Ethnology and Social and Cultural Anthropology**

The second topic of the conference aims to examine the use of ethnological or anthropological knowledge and research methods to solve practical, topical problems in contemporary, complex societies that are connected with the transmission of anthropological knowledge into the practice.

The aim is to create a platform for a discussion about the questions of application and engagement and possible drawbacks of such an approach. Papers submitted should aim to present research projects that students of ethnology and cultural or social anthropology have been involved in and present important aspects and ways of engagement in which scholars participate in public affairs - whether they are civic activities or other links between academic and practical sphere as those can have various forms at present. Our intention is to generate the mutual discussion that ethnology and social and cultural anthropology are not only interesting study fields but they are also socially relevant disciplines that can disclose possible solutions of diverse, sometimes most significant, social problems specifically because of methodological tools and deep analyses they are able to produce.

*What are the possibilities of anthropological knowledge in the context of the contemporary world? What are the examples of good practice? What opportunities have been open for anthropologists mainly outside the academic arena? How to deal in research projects with the dilemmas regarding the value and interest neutrality? Where is the borderline between the role of an observer, documentarist, interpreter, and where the active involvement in the given phenomena emerges? What are the limits of professional ethics?*

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**We invite proposals for individual or co-authored papers** (20 min.). Please, submit your proposals by 15th October 2019 via email in a Word document attachment to

ewbnitra2019@gmail.com. Please, include a title, an abstract of maximum 250 words, five keywords, your name, institutional affiliation, and your contact information.

**We invite poster presentations** (format A1, max number of pcs 3 per presentation).

Participants are responsible for printing out their posters. Please, submit your proposals by 15th October 2019 via email in a Word document attachment to ewbnitra2019@gmail.com. Please, include a title, an abstract of maximum 250 words, five keywords, your name, institutional affiliation, and your contact information.

**Number of Participants:** We recommend every department or institute to send 2-3 students (including PhD. students) and 1 staff member (lecturer).

**Conference language:** English

**Decisions regarding proposals** will be communicated by the program committee and sent to authors on 20th October 2019.

## The program includes

1. **Presentations by representatives of organisations that employ the graduates from study fields of ethnology and social and cultural anthropology** (the presentations will continue by a facilitated discussion on engaged and applied ethnology):

- Klub milovníkov autentického folklóru [Club of authentic folklore fans] (Civic Organization), Košice;
- Centrum pre tradičnú ľudovú kultúru [Center for traditional folk culture], Bratislava;
- Ústav etnológie SAV in Bratislava [The Ethnology Institute of Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava];
- Tradana (Civic Organization), Nitra;
- Úrad Splnomocnenca vlády pre rómske komunity Ministerstvo vnútra SR [The Institute of the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic], Nitra, Bratislava;
- Centrum pre výskum etnicity a kultúry [Center for the Ethnicity and Culture Research], Bratislava;
- Anthropictures (Civic Organization), Prague.

## 2. **Interactive workshop: Escape to Pecestan**

*Have you ever thought of the requirements locals put on foreigners coming to their home countries? During this interactive simulation and discussion, you'll have an opportunity to explore your own cultural identity and decide what elements of it you'd like to keep after being forced to move elsewhere.* Organised by: Lecturers from Civic Association Mareena (Nitra, Bratislava). The workshop will be in English.

3. **Dance House** — *The school of traditional dance from the Ponitrie region led by students and graduates of the Department of Ethnology and Folklore Studies, Faculty of Arts, Constantine the Philosopher University, Nitra, Slovakia – and party.* Organised by: Ponitran — University Folklore Dance Group (Nitra).

4. **Multipart singing workshop** — *The workshop of traditional multipart singing from the Horehronie region led by lecturer and students of the Department of Ethnology and Folklore Studies, Constantine the Philosopher University, Nitra.*

#### Conference venues:

- Ponk Coworking Nitra, Východná 966/6, 949 01 Nitra
- ŠD Nitra, Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Boženy Slančíkovej 1, 949 01 Nitra

**Publication:** Papers will be published in a peer-reviewed ISBN volume, selected papers may be published in a scholarly journal *Etnologické rozpravy*.

**Program Committee:** Slavomíra Voľanská, Miroslava Školová, Miriama Bošelová, Viktória Čolláková, Gabriela Kováčiková

**Local Arrangements Committee:** Aneta Vetráková, Veronika Dudášová, Klaudia Ťapajnová, Jana Ambrózová, Barbora Siváčková

Contact email address for local arrangements: [ewbnitra2019@gmail.com](mailto:ewbnitra2019@gmail.com)

**Conference website:** [www.conferencenitra.sk](http://www.conferencenitra.sk)

**Conference Facebook page:** [Ethnology Without Borders](#)

**Conference Fee:** There is no conference fee.

**Costs:** Travel costs, **some**\* accommodation expenses and boarding will be paid by the conference participants.

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE!** Thanks to the financial support of the Fund for the Arts Support the organizers **can reimburse some expenses for the accommodation** in the form of the lump sum paid at the conference in cash to each participant. The amount depends on the number of participants. In addition to refreshment **the organizers will cover also the expenses for common lunch during the first two days** of the conference.