

19th

SLOVENIAN SOCIAL SCIENCE CONFERENCE

**DIALOGUES ON SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS
IN A DIVIDED AND DIVERGING WORLD
JUNE 8-9, 2026, IN LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA**

PROGRAMME VENUE

LJUBLJANA, RADISSON BLU PLAZA HOTEL AND ZOOM



ZOOM QR AND LINK FOR PLENARY AND ROOM A

[HTTPS://EU01WEB.ZOOM.US/J/66658271612](https://eu01web.zoom.us/j/66658271612)
MEETING ID: 666 5827 1612



ZOOM QR AND LINK FOR ROOM B

[HTTPS://EU01WEB.ZOOM.US/J/68244582256](https://eu01web.zoom.us/j/68244582256)
MEETING ID: 682 4458 2256

DAY 1 – MONDAY, 8 JUNE 2026

08:00 – 09:00

Registration and coffee

09:00 – 10:15

Opening and keynote (plenary)

Welcome addresses:

- **Professor Bandana Purkayastha**, University of Connecticut, vice-president of the International Sociological Association;
- **Professor Janez Povh**, acting rector of the public University of Novo mesto;
- **Professor Matej Makarovič**, president of the Slovenian National Committee of the MOST Programme of UNESCO and dean of the Faculty of Information Society
- **Assoc. prof. Tamara Besednjak Valič**, president of the Slovenian Social Science Association

Keynote speech:

Crisis of Liberalism: Toward Dialogical Liberal Project
Professor **Sari Hanafi**, American University of Beirut

10:30 – 12:00

Parallel sessions

ROOM A

Rethinking social transformations

- Resilient Sociologies? Agency, Imaginaries and Power in East European Transformations – Borut Rončević
- Rethinking the Social Foundations of Democracy in a Divided World: Configurations of Support across Regime Types – Olga Kutsenko, Andrii Gorbachyk
- Possible Delegitimacy of the Chosen Path: the case of Social Acceptance of the Privatization in Bulgaria – Antoaneta Getova
- The Epochal Crisis of Liberal Democracy: The Relevance of Plato's Critique in the Age of Post-Truth and Digital Transformation – Dejan Jelovac

ROOM B

Social Fragmentation, Polarisation and Memory

- A Polarized Society and the Right to Memory – Zdeněk Uherek, Veronika Beranská
- Under Siege, beyond one path: Trauma and divergent political responses – Janja Mikulan
- Navigating Fragmentation: Dynamic Adaptation and Social Transformation among Ukrainian Refugees in Times of Crisis – Tetyana Panchenko
- War-Induced Displacement and Social Resilience in Ukraine: Analyzing Inequalities and Adaptive Strategies from 2022 to 2026 – Oleh Ivanov

12:00 – 13:30

Lunch

13:30 – 15:00

Parallel sessions: Inclusive Communities for European Industry 5.0 (Jean Monnet Chair IC4U)



ROOM A

Youth, Families and Belonging

- Youth, Inequalities and Identity Crisis: Portrait of a Suspended Generation – Roberto Flauto
- Youth Transitions and Political Engagement in Post-Crisis Armenia: Navigating Social Transformations in a Divided Society – Marina Galstyan
- Intimate Boundaries and Secular Belonging: Interfaith and Inter-Caste Families in a Divided Society – Swati Sucharita Nanda
- Reconfiguring Families in a Divided World: Social Transformations and Policy Pathways – Adeela Rehman

ROOM B

Identities, Religion and Belonging in Divided Societies

- Innovations in the context of human-centred development; The potentials and threats of rising collectivism – Tea Golob, Matej Makarovič
- Rethinking Secularization: Lived Spirituality and the Transformation of Religiosity in a Post-Secular Society – Anna Vostruhová, Jiří Buriánek
- The "friend-stranger" Category in the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo – Wioleta Gierszewska
- Tribal Status for Social Betterment: Hattee Community of Himachal Pradesh (India) – Kashmir Kashyap

The sessions under the JM Chair IC4EU will also provide a thematic presentation of the Chair holder. Scholars will be invited to contribute to the session with their research insights, scientific reviews and discussion. This session was financially co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union, Key Action: Erasmus+, Jean Monnet, Action Type: Jean Monnet Chair. Project Reference: IC4EU - ERASMUS-JMO-2024-CHAIR. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

15:00 – 15:30

Coffee break

15:30 – 17:00

Parallel sessions

ROOM A

Environmental and Green Transformations: Justice and Power

- Governing Industrial Symbiosis for Social and Environmental Resilience: Policy Lessons from Slovenia's Circular Transition – Erika Džajič Uršič
- Who Can Afford the Transition? Poverty, Policy, and the Politics of Green Transformation in the EU – Alenka Pandiloska Jurak
- The Future is Green... But for Whom? Green Startups in Times of Polycrisis: Entrepreneurship, Extractivism, and Gender in the Global South – Camila Ponce Lara
- What Comes Next? Europe's Green Transition and the Strategic Role of Azerbaijan – Rasul Yusibov
- Epistemic Climate Repair: Indigenous Ecological Knowledge and Sustainability Governance in a Divided World – Oludele Solaja, Comfort Oyafunke-Omoniyi

ROOM B

Civil Society, Knowledge and Local Sustainability

- Rethinking civil society: between pluralism and socio-cultural hegemony – Igor Bahovec
- Citizen Science as a Tool for Farmer Empowerment and Mental Resilience in a Diverging World – Tatjana Rožič, Maruša Gorišek, Nuša Kovačević Tojniko
- The Role of Scientific Knowledge in Local Sustainable Practices: Addressing the Challenging Relationship between Science, Politics and Public – Maruša Gorišek
- Food Security: The Greatest Hidden Peril in a Divided and Diverging World – Ma Huidi
- Situation of Roma Teaching Assistants in the Czech Republic – Lucie Cviklová

DAY 2 – TUESDAY, 9 JUNE 2026

09:00 – 10:30

Parallel sessions

ROOM A

Digitalisation, AI and Social Fragmentation

- Algorithmic Persuasion and the Commercialization of Digital Public Spheres – Mateja Rek
- Transformations of Power and Social Control in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: A Sociological Approach to Digital Violence – Ouafae Elarabi
- Fake news epidemic and erosion of trust: the role of social media and bots – Blaž Rodič
- Digitalisation and the Digital Divide: Transformation vs. Exclusion – Swapnil Singh

ROOM B

AI, Work and Digital Inequalities

- AI-Driven Platform for Social Inclusion: Addressing the Student Housing Crisis in Slovenia – Denis Kantič
- Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Work in Nigeria: Navigating Class Inequality in the Era of Technological Change – Adebukola Olufunke Dagunduro
- Digital Pathways to Divided Citizenship: E-Governance, Social Hierarchies and Digital Inclusion in Rural India – Dharendra Kumar Sahoo
- AI TCO Blindspot – Janez Kolar

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30

Parallel sessions

ROOM A

Governance of Emerging Technologies and Digital Sovereignty

- Governing Emerging Technologies in a Divided World: Strategic Timing and Diverging Quantum Innovation Trajectories – Tamara Besednjak Valič, Karin Dobravc Škof
- From Big-Tech Dependence to Digital Sovereignty: The Role of Open Source in European Public Administration – Vladimir Šterle
- A System Without a Shared Reality: How Fragmented Perceptions Undermine Intellectual Property Effectiveness – Urša Lamut, Ana Hafner
- Unseen Influences? Youth Agency and the Normalisation of Digital Media Environments – Jan Gałkowski, Dorota Rynkowska

ROOM B

Social Movements, Resistance and Political Participation

- Exploring The Transformative Role of Baloch Women in Political Movement Through Digital Activism in Pakistan – Muhammad Sharif
- Dalit Resistance Across Borders: Strategic Framing and Sub-National Venue Shopping by Dalit Activists in India and the United States – Satadru Bhattacharyya
- The Student Movement in Serbia and the Formation of a New Political Generation – Jelena Božilović Ljupković, Aleksandra Nikolajević
- The Role of Youth as Non-State Actors in Peacebuilding Efforts in Nigeria's Conflict Zones – Tope Shola Akinyetun et al.
- Political Clientelism, Weak Institutions, and the Political Economy of Corruption in Nigeria: A Sociological and Criminological Analysis – Comfort Oyinlola Oyafunke-Omoniyi

12:30 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 15:30

Parallel sessions

ROOM A

Labour, Precarity and Organisational Transformations

- Job Insecurity and Social Transformation in the Gig and Informal Economy: Lived Experiences of Workers in Ogun State, Nigeria – Bawalla Oluwatoyin Gbenga
- A new life for Open Innovation: Considering a region-centred view on the factors impacting OI – Cristian Gangaliuc
- Explaining uneven development in industrial localities: social fields approach – Kseniia Gromova
- Modelling the Impact of Gender Equity and Digital Intelligence on Sustainable Organisational Innovation in the Nigerian Textile Industry – Odunayo P. Salau
- Assessing the Nexus Between New Media Adoption and Sustainable Customers' Engagement in Selected Commercial Banks in Nigeria – Jumoke A. Salau et al.

ROOM B

Politics of Resources, Welfare and Social Policy

- Elite Capture and Inclusive Energy Reform from the lens of Nigeria's 2023 Fuel Subsidy Removal – Opeyemi Idowu Aluko Ajayi, Samuel Umoh
- Assessing the Poor State of Nigeria's Healthcare System – Aluko-Arowolo, Sunday Olusola et al.
- Urban Heat Island (UHI) Effect on Food Consumption in Bangladesh – Mahajabin Haque Anisha, Shaikh Mohammad Kais
- Mental Health in Middle Childhood: A Quantitative Study on Stress, Anxiety and Depression in Albanian Children Aged 6–10 – Fatjona Haka, Arlinda Hallunovi Ymeri
- Volunteering in older age in Lithuania: Perceived opportunities and barriers – Inga Gaizauskaite, Dovile Daugeliene

15:30 – 16:00

Coffee break

16:00 – 17:30

Parallel sessions

ROOM A

Education, Pedagogy and Social Transformation

- Developing Digital Pedagogical Competence in Universities: Educators' Challenges and Professional Development Needs – Edit Lezha, Eranda Bilali (Halluni)
- Writing in a Divided World: Social Transformation and Creative Practices During the Pandemic – Jekaterina Karelina
- Truth, Trust, and Technology: Digital Information Literacy and Social Fragmentation among Adolescents — A Cross-National Analysis Using PISA 2022 – Sandeep Kaur
- Data, Power, and Inclusion in Music Education: Rethinking E-Administrative Platforms in the Digital Age – Lorena Mihelač
- New trends in teaching International Human Resources Management – Svitlana Buko, Boštjan Žabar

ROOM B

Inequalities, Migration and Everyday Life in a Divided World

- Cultural changes in the everyday life of Ukrainian migrants: A case study of migration to Poland – Joanna Stepaniuk
- Frozen Minds and Fixed Voter: A Case Study of Cultural Transformation in a CASTE CURRENCY in the governance in Bihar – Suman Suprita
- Domestic Violence and Gender-Based Violence in Democratic Uruguay: Institutional Progress and Persistent Social Inequalities – Aurelia Gierlicka
- From Collectively Empowered to Individually Powerless: How Everyday Frustrations with Living under an Autocratizing Government Motivate Emigration – Jacob Thomas
- Why Do Most Who Consider Emigrating Never Do So? – Jacob Thomas

16:00 – 17:30

Closing (plenary)

- Short plenary wrap-up and conference closing remarks.