

THE INSTITUTE OF ETHNOLOGY SAS EVALUATED AS ONE OF THE BEST SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS IN SLOVAKIA

By Resolution of the Slovak Academy of Sciences No. 1212.C of 09 February 2017, the Institute of Ethnology SAS was included in category A in accordance with the Principles of Regular Evaluation of SAS Organisations (2012–2015) and on the basis of the evaluation by the International Panel of Evaluators and the Evaluation Protocol of the Metapanel of the Institute of Ethnology SAS.

The Institute has been characterised as follows: “The research is internationally leading within the European context. The institute has demonstrated important contributions to the field and is considered an international player in Europe”.

According to the summary results, of the total number of 57 SAS organisations two institutes were included in category A = “international leaders”: the Institute of Ethnology SAS, and the Institute of Polymers SAS. The category B = “valuable research results visible at the European level” was achieved by 30 organisations, of which 9 organisations received the evaluation with wording “excellent research results visible at the international level”. The first international scientific audit in the history of Slovak science showed that the Slovak Academy of Sciences is not only a top-level research institution in the domestic context, but is also one of the important European scientific institutions.

Further to the evaluation by the International Evaluators Panel for Organisations in Social Sciences and Humanities, of the total number of 20 organisations, one organisation obtained category A ranking and ten organisations category B ranking (three of them received evaluation with wording “excellent research results visible at the international level”).

The first international evaluation of the Slovak Academy of Sciences showed that most SAS organisations represent important and visible players in the European science and that the quality of SAS institutes is balanced in this regard. We are very glad for having received the international leader appraisal, and we consider it an appreciation of our collective efforts. The Metapanel Protocol is an important protocol for us in terms of guiding and improving the effectiveness of our research strategy in the forthcoming period.

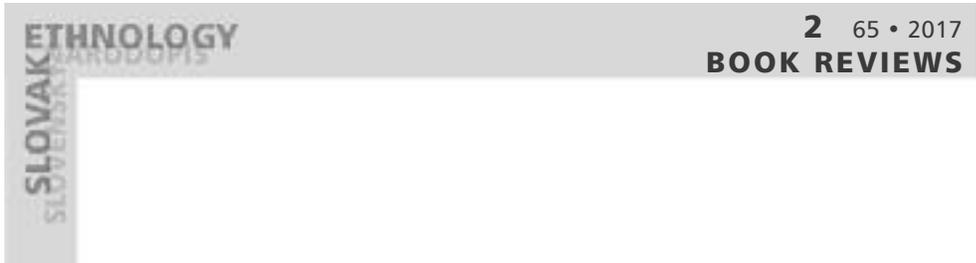
The international experts highlighted in their evaluations the effective management, top-level functioning within the European networks (not only as a partner, but also leader), excellent national and international research, the vision concerning the institution’s publishing activities and the balanced composition of publication outputs, targeted pro-activity, the high success rate in obtaining international projects, the balanced age, gender and qualification structure of the work team, and the personnel policy focused

on the stabilisation of quality postdocs and continuing education and training of PhD students in the field of ethnology. The experts also appreciated the exceptional social impacts of our scientific activities, the links to the decision-making sphere and the third sector, and our emphasis on the dissemination and popularisation of the basic research findings.

With a view to the enhanced focus on the research of present-day society, they recommended changing the name of the organisation to the Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology. It was also recommended to produce a plan for a more intensive collaboration with renowned foreign publishing houses and a major change in the proportion of publication outputs in favour of international ones. In addition, the meta-panel used its competence to address the

recommendations not only to the SAS organisations, but also to the government sector and concrete ministries. One of the recommendations highlighted the need to provide more support by the Slovak Academy of Sciences and the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports in order to open the road to top-level institutions within European infrastructures under the national ESFRI roadmap. The potential participation of Slovakia in the existing European SSH infrastructures would open the possibility for involvement of the Institute of Ethnology SAS and other academic and non-academic organisations in European networks, such as DARIAH and EUROPEANA.

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Institute of Ethnology SAS in Bratislava



GABRIELA KILIÁNOVÁ,
JURAJ ZAJONC:
70 rokov Ústavu etnológie
Slovenskej akadémie vied: kontinui-
ty a diskontinuity bádania a jednej
inštitúcie (70 Years of the Institute
of Ethnology of the Slovak Academy
of Sciences: Continuities
and Discontinuities of Research
and of One Institution).
Bratislava: Veda, 2016, 287 p.

The top-level scientific centre of basic and applied research in the field of ethnology, social and cultural anthropology and reli-

gious studies – the Institute of Ethnology SAS in Bratislava – remembered the 70th anniversary of its establishment last year. In the presence of its former and current staff members and its domestic and foreign partner institutions, it celebrated this anniversary with a Laudation Day (Bratislava, 17 June 2016) and with an international conference on the challenges in ethnology in the 3rd millennium (Smolenice, 19–21 October 2016). This Laudation Day included the presentation of a new book and exhibition covering the seven decades of the existence of this institute. The reviewed book is one of the outputs related to this anniversary.

The foreword by J. Zajonc and, in particular, the introductory chapter by the co-author G. Kiliánová, present well-formulated aims and objectives, as well as the methodologies used in the compilation of the history of this institution and a short presentation of the structure of the book. As noted by G. Kiliánová, the aim is to present the continuities and discontinuities in the research activities of this institution, the methodological approaches, research topics and issues observed in particular periods. The authors chose the approach based not only on the mapping of the history of this expert centre and its institutional history, but also on the presentation of its internal structure and its relationship to superior bodies and partner institutions. They observe the history of this institution through the daily work of its staff members whom they consider the social actors of the whole process. They interpret the different facts through strategies, motivations, daily routines and accomplishments. They seek answers to the questions – “what happened”, “how” and “why” it happened. They describe the role of the institution and its contribution to the development of ethnography/ethnology in Slovakia since the 2nd half of the 20th century.

The publication describes the well-mapped process of the establishment of the institution (from 1946), the development of its structure (the organisational changes, as well as its sections, units or the detached department in Košice), the re-structuring, personnel development, the scientific and research topics, the most important work results, up to the period after 1989 when the institution faced a new social-political situation, the market economy and the opening up to cross-border cooperation. The book is logically divided into four principal chapters covering the periods that follow the historical milestones in the development of this institution in the context of the social and political development of society: the periods covered are 1946–1953, 1953–1969, 1969–1989, and the situation after 1989 until today. These time periods correspond to the estab-

lishment, functioning, temporary closing and transformation of the institution, its reopening as an independent institution, and further functioning during turbulent events.

The authors follow the history of the institution at several levels: not only its development and organisational changes, but also the thematic focus of research – from the mapping of the traditional forms of folk culture to research on the changes in this field, study of the forms of folk culture under the new changed circumstances of the socialist society, research on “cooperative villages”, the working class, ethnic minorities, Slovaks abroad, the functioning and the current forms of folk culture up to the study of the present-day social reality. They also mention the different research locations, the ways of selecting them, the personal coverage of the different thematic areas, etc. Another focus of the study is the development of the theoretical and methodological principles – continuity with the functional-structural method and the historical-genetic focus at the time of the establishment of the institution, which survived in spite of the pressures to apply the Marxist ethnography; or the broad range of theoretical and methodological approaches used after 1989. They describe the complicated processes related to the implementation of the requirements and pressures of the former regime on scientific research, the ideologisation of sciences, Communist purges, the enforcement of new methodological approaches and the ways of (non-)applying them. All these facts are supported with references to works by different authors.

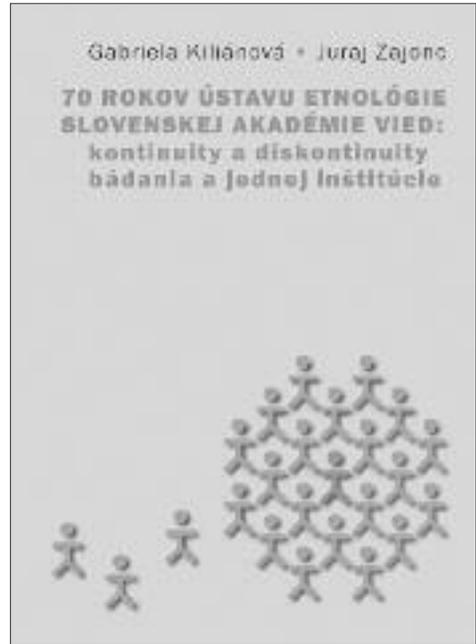
Each chapter contains a concise final summary which appropriately summarises the principal characteristics of the individual periods, the most important accomplishments, as well as several findings and conclusions. The final chapter brings summary information on the individual stages of the institution’s development, and conclusions on the entire range of continuity and discontinuity factors as compared to the institution in its present form.

The authors approached their attempt to

compile a synthetic work presenting the seven decades of our top ethnological institution in Slovakia not only with the aim of explaining, but also of providing an overview. In addition to the 130 pages of concise texts on the different stages of its development, the book also offers data which cover selected events throughout the existence of the institution. A proportionally larger part is formed by annexes which bring an overview of all important facts on the personal, publication and project portfolio of the institution. It is not only a list and short introduction of the institution's leading figures, lists of all researchers and specialised staff, but also a list of national and international projects and selected publications and journals published by or in collaboration with the institution. In addition to the bibliography, the book also contains registers (by names, subjects and regions). It represents a huge amount of work produced with the participation of many colleagues, listed in the introductory part of the publication (p. 19).

The work has minor formal inconsistencies regarding references to cited sources. This concerns Ján Mjartan who is the only author referred to by his first name and surname in brackets in the first chapter of the book (e.g. Ján Mjartan, 2006), while other authors are referred to only by their surname (e.g. Barabášová, 1952). The mentioning of the names and surnames of the different personalities in the texts is not consistent either: the authors indicate either the whole first name, or just the capital letter or only the surname; at one place (p. 86), the authors use the full titles of the persons, while at other places they appear without their respective titles.

The year of establishment of *Slovenská vlastiveda* (1934), as mentioned on page 22, is incorrect; the correct year (1943) is indicated in the footnote on the same page. When referring to the year of publishing of the fairy tales collection by P. Dobšinský on page 78 as the best known and most frequently published collection of Slovak fairy tales, the authors indicate the years 1858–1961. However, this work, published by



P. Dobšinský together with A. H. Škultéty, preceded the greatest collection of fairy tales published gradually 20 years later – *Prostonárodné slovenské povesti* (published in 1880–1883). In connection with editorial works, some data related to the research project in *Závadka na Hronom* is repeatedly mentioned at two places in two different chapters (on page 48 and again on page 70).

As a pedagogue working with students of ethnology, I appreciate the efforts to present this huge amount of facts about the development of the institution in an easy and understandable manner, but with a pithy description of the contemporary contexts. The authors interpret the talk of facts and data through concrete persons, their fates and the results of work in the form of concrete scientific outputs. In this way, the book helps better understand the wider context of the production of the publications and the work conditions and activities of the actors. We also appreciate the decent layout of the publication, enhanced by a high-quality text and a photographic annex that “humanises” the presented data and gives the publication a special character, although most readers prefer having pictures directly in the text.

Although students (not only in our field of study) do not really favour general history or the history of scientific disciplines, I am confident that these types of publications will find their way to this category of readers (as well as others) and will help them learn about and understand the history of the institution in the context of the overall development of our scientific field from the second half of the 20th century until the present.

The publication presents a number of well-known facts based on older works on the history of this scientific field and of the SAS institution (or SAVU or ČSAV), which are complemented with many previously unknown data based on the authors' research conducted through an in-depth study of archive documents. We can learn, for example, about the ambitious plans to expand the institute and its personnel capacities, on the

basis of which it was supposed to reach 80 staff members by the end of the 1980s and focus on non-European research within its research portfolio, as well. However, these plans remained on the drawing board.

The authors managed to accomplish the set objectives and created a representative work that adequately presents our top-level ethnological institution which was highly evaluated by the international committee under the evaluation process conducted in the Slovak Academy of Sciences last year. In this regard, I consider this book a model example and an inspiration for other institutions with decades of existence without any comprehensive monograph.

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**CALL FOR THE ISSUE OF SLOVAK
ETHNOLOGY/SLOVENSKÝ NÁRODOPIS,
VOLUME 66, NUMBER 2/2018**

**AGEISM – A MULTI-NATIONAL, INTERDISCIPLINARY
PERSPECTIVE**

HOSTING EDITOR: ĽUBICA VOĽANSKÁ

In a wider sense, ageism means stereotyping, discrimination or unfair treatment based on a person's age (under the same principle it can be applied also on a group). Highly prevalent under ageism we understand a complex and often negative social construction of old age. However, the term is also used to name prejudice and discrimination against adolescents and children, including ignoring their ideas because they are too young, or assuming that they should behave in certain ways because of their age.

The term was coined in 1969 by Robert Neil Butler¹ to describe discrimination against seniors, and patterned on sexism and racism. It can include the way that older people are represented in the media, which can have a wider impact on the public's attitudes. No less important, it can also impact on someone's confidence, job prospects, financial situation and quality of life. It has been pointed out that stigmatization does not only occur outside of the cohesively imagined group of the elderly but likewise takes place within the stigmatized group itself.

Concerning the connection of the research of age groups as well as ageism (in a wider or narrow sense): ethnology, social and cultural anthropology did not particularly concentrate on the special phase of old age by the research of non-European societies. Even Margaret Clark wrote (1968) that the time span between marriage and death seems to be a monotonous field or "ethnographic vacuum"². At the end of the 20th century, however, the situation began to change gradually.

This issue of Slovak Ethnology presents a contribution to the research of ageism related to all age groups. The journal invites analytic, theoretical or synthetic articles, research reports, essays and discussions in the fields of ethnology, social and cultural anthropology and related scholarly disciplines, focused especially (not, however, exclusively) on the following issues:

- Ageism at the structural and individual levels – different contexts of ageism (the workplace, health care, media, community, family etc.);
- Institutional practices and policies that perpetuate stereotypes about persons belonging to specific age groups;
- Cultural reflections of causes of ageism;
- Arts & Culture: How social media and visual culture are related to our view on specific age groups;
- (Auto)biographical research, the role of narratives (giving voice perspective) in the area of ageism research;
- Gendered ageism;
- Age related stereotypes then become self-fulfilling prophecies.

Submission guidelines: please follow the guidelines for submissions as given on the website of Slovak Ethnology/Slovenský národopis:

<http://www.uet.sav.sk/?q=en/guidelines-contributors>

Final date for abstracts: 15. 11. 2017

Only authors of accepted abstracts will be invited to submit a full paper. An invitation to submit a full paper does not constitute a commitment for publication; all papers will be subject to anonymous peer review following the submission.

Final date for papers: 15. 2. 2018

Please send your abstracts and papers as an e-mail attachment to the editors, at:

slovensky.narodopis@savba.sk

The issue of Slovak Ethnology will be supported by ISCH COST Action IS1402, *Ageism –a multi-national, interdisciplinary perspective* (http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/isch/IS1402).

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- 1 Butler, R. N. (1969). "Age-ism: Another form of bigotry". *The Gerontologist*, 9(4), 243–246.
 - 2 Clark, M. (1968). The anthropology of ageing: A new area for studies of culture and personality. In: B. L. Neugarten (Ed.), *Middle age and ageing*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.