



# International Bulletin

Issue 2, October 2019

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## "Innovation through humanities and social sciences lens"

The Faculty of Philosophy has begun preparations for a fundamental scientific research on "Innovation through Humanities and Social Sciences lens".

The surge in the use of the concept of "innovation", as well as the increase of the available public financial resources offered for its application, has triggered the scientific skepticism and urge for systematic exploration of the genealogy, discourses and representations of this concept. In addition, the dominance of the natural sciences, as well as the technological aspect of innovation and their indisputable contribution to the development of societies, impose the obligation to examine the role of the humanities and social sciences and their place in the creation of innovative ideas.

In this respect, the idea of the research is to make a theoretical contribution related to the role of the scientific disciplines represented at the Faculty of Philosophy in terms of innovation, while at the same time avoiding the aspect of innovation in these sciences. The purpose of this research is to provide insights into innovations that emphasize the relevance and necessity of the humanities and social sciences, as well as the interdisciplinarity in developing innovative ideas.





The Macedonian team of the European Values Study (EVS) represented by professors from the Faculty of Philosophy, Skopje - prof. Antoanela Petkovska (team leader), prof. Mihajlo Popovski, prof. Ilo Trajkovski and prof. Konstantin Minoski will promote the results of the comprehensive analysis of the EVS field research at the end of October 2019.

The research was conducted from December 2018 to April 2019, on a sample of 1,117 respondents, in the eight statistical regions in the country. The survey involved a semi-structured interview containing 104 items/questions. It covers topics related to: life, leisure and work, family life and marriage, several contemporary social topics, socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents.

Initial analysis of the collected data enabled the identification of the basic tendencies in the attitudes of Macedonian citizens:

- Respondents reported that the family is the most important and the politics the least important in their lives; most of them do not trust other people; they show the greatest distance towards people with socially unacceptable behavior; highest level of trust towards religious institutions and lowest to political parties; in relation to the job they prefer a good salary and adequate working time.
- The marriage and the family are institutions of great importance; most of the respondents identify as religious persons and belong to religious denominations.
- Most of the respondents stated that they're not members of political parties, prefer a democratic system of government and are little to moderately satisfied with the country's political system; the largest percentage of citizens consider it important to maintain order in the country, while also accepting that citizens should have greater opportunity to influence decisions on important social issues; in part they justify abortion and divorce and hardly accept political violence and bribery.

### Events organised by the Faculty of Philosophy, Skopje

- 2 October, 2019, MANU, Skopje: Fifth International Philosophical Dialogue "East-West": "The Crisis of the Idea of Europe", organized by the MANU, International Slavic University Gavrilo Romanovic Derzavin, Faculty of Philosophy, Skopje and Philosophical Society of Macedonia.
- 8 October, 2019, Faculty of Philosophy, Amphitheatre 4 (first floor): EMDR Seminar "State of Art and Perspectives" (evidence-based integrative psychotherapy for Post-traumatic Stress Disorder and of other psychiatric disorders, mental health problems, and somatic symptoms), organized by the Italian Embassy in Skopje and the Faculty of Philosophy, Skopje.
- 9 October, 2019, Faculty of Philosophy, Meeting hall (09.30, first floor): Lecture "Food-banking and Poverty", Jacques Vandenschrik, President of the European Food Banks Federation.
- 14-15 October, 2019, DoubleTree, Skopje: Regional conference on the occasion of the International Day for Poverty Eradication "Responsive social protection solutions: empowering children, families and communities to end poverty", organised by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and the Institute of Social Work and Social Policy, Faculty of Philosophy, Skopje.
- 31 October 2019, Faculty of Philosophy, Meeting Hall (first floor): Lecture "The Unexamined Meal" by Victor Sjodin, Vegan Outreach, Vice President of College Outreach and International Expansion, organized by Anima Mundi, Skopje and the Center for Integrative Bioethics at the Faculty of Philosophy.





The FAST (Fostering Accessible Study Technologies) project team is currently working on the Intellectual Output (IO2) – the actual creation of an accessible Learning Management System in Humanities and Social Sciences. The Learning Management System and its accessibility is being created according to the parameters defined in the methodological framework (from IO1). A group of IT experts are creating plugins for accessibility. This is happening simultaneously at the Universities in Skopje, Vilnius and Aveiro. The European Training Center-Copenhagen is supervising the process. The first plugin or the so called Dyslexia plugin is already created and it will enable access to different course content to students with dyslexia. Students will have the opportunity to change any content with the first Cyrillic font for Dyslexia-Dyslexic FZF. The plugin also enables background color change because evidence based research shows that students with dyslexia need adjustment to the background color. The IT experts are currently working on the color blind schemes, and they are creating the text-to-speech engine for the students with visual impairments.

The FAST team from the Faculty of Philosophy - assoc. prof. Aleksandra Karovska-Ristovska (team leader), assoc. prof. Vojislav Sarakinski, assoc. prof. Olivera Rasikj Canevska, assoc. prof. Alma Tasevska and assist. prof. Nikola Minov, together with their colleagues from the University of Vilnius, University of Aveiro and the European Training Center-Copenhagen have translated the first Intellectual Output (IO1) - the methodological framework for creation of an accessible learning management system in five languages (English, Macedonian, Danish, Latvian and Portuguese). The translated publication allows open access to researchers and IT staff to create such LMSs in the respective countries and languages.

### 1st European Conference for Religious Dialogue and Cooperation 14-17 October 2019, Struga

The Center for Intercultural Studies and Research at the Faculty of Philosophy, Skopje organizes the 1st European Conference for Religious Dialogue and Cooperation. The conference will gather national and international experts and researchers working on sociological, philosophical, anthropological, historical, psychological and theological approaches to religion and religious tolerance. The four day conference will provide a forum for discussion of some of the key issues related to: religious tolerance in Europe, the role of religion as a keeper of the national identity in Europe, the process of ethno-religious mobilization in Europe, religious fundamentalism in Europe, religious universalism through ecumenism and neo-ecumenism, etc.

Presented papers will be published in the conference proceedings by the Faculty of Philosophy, Skopje. The full agenda and conference info can be obtained through the conference website - <http://icrd.mk>



## Guest lecture announcement



Daniel Bar Tal  
Professor Emeritus  
School of Education  
Tel Aviv University, Israel

Daniel Bar-Tal is Professor Emeritus at the School of Education, Tel Aviv University. His research interest is in political and social psychology studying socio-psychological foundations of intractable conflicts and peace making. Specifically, he studied the evolvement of the socio-psychological infrastructure in times of intractable conflict that consists of shared societal beliefs of ethos of conflict, of collective memory, and emotional collective orientations. He proposed a conceptual framework for the evolvement of reconciliation, for the development of peace education and eventually of peace culture as well as the development of political understanding among children and peace education. Recently he extended his scope of research to the study of the deterioration of democracy and the rise of authoritarianism.

He has published over 20 books and over 250 articles and chapters in major social and political psychological journals, books and encyclopedias. He served as a President of the International Society of Political Psychology and received various awards for his work, including the Alexander George Award of the International Society of Political Psychology for the best book in Political Psychology. In 2017 he was elected as a foreign member of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

His guest lecture entitled "Living with Fear" will be held on the 1st of October 2019, starting at 13.30, at the Main amphitheater, Faculty of Philosophy, first floor.

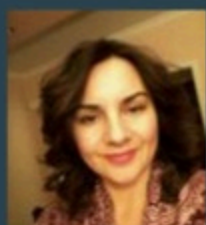
During the International Conference: "Psychology for all", organized by the Faculty of Philosophy, in Ohrid, from 26-28 of September 2019, prof. Bar Tal gave a keynote lecture on "Why is it so difficult to resolve peacefully intractable conflicts"?

CEEPUS incoming scholars within the Network: Philosophy and Interdisciplinarity  
15-24 October, 2019



dr hab. Adrian Kuźniar, Assistant Professor, Head of the Institute of Philosophy,  
University of Warsaw, Poland

"An Outline of the Darwinian Argument in Metaethics"  
"Memetic Counterparts of the Darwinian Argument in Metaethics"  
"Genealogical Critiques and the Autonomy of Moral Beliefs"



dr Biljana Radovanović, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Philosophy,  
University of Niš, Serbia

"The nature of scientific change and tradition in science"  
"Critical approaches to teachings within the philosophy of science"  
"Experiment, imagination, myth"



Faculty of Philosophy partners  
with We Effect for the project  
"From Disability to FoodAbility"



A team of professors from the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje will contribute towards the We Effect project "From Disability to FoodAbility". The project aims to empower people with disabilities and people with sensory impediments and their families living in rural areas. This will be achieved by increased self-representation, involvement in decision-making processes and improved livelihoods through access to nutrition and enhanced public support through inclusive and innovative measures. The project targets members of We Effect's existing partner organisation - the National Federation of Farmers (NFF), i.e. people with disabilities and their families from six municipalities in North Macedonia: Sveti Nikole, Veles, Resen, Gostivar, Kocani and Negotino.

The team from the Faculty of Philosophy - assist. prof. Natasa Stanojkovska-Trajkovska (team leader), assoc. prof. Sofija Georgievska, assoc. prof. Aleksandra Karovska-Ristovska and assoc. prof. Olivera Rasikj-Canevska will be involved in the following project activities: (1) Initial screening and mapping of people with disabilities and their families; (2) Initial assessment and preparing of adequate methodology and program (3) Organisation of sessions in six municipalities with people with disabilities and their families; (4) Mapping and preparation of analysis regarding the main problems and needs of the people with disability in the rural areas with special focus on women and girls for the six municipalities and general recommendations; (5) Organise six informative sessions (one in each municipality) with the people with disabilities and their families regarding their rights under the Convention and their rights under the national social security system; (6) Training for people with disabilities and their families for self-representation; and (7) Workshops for implementing the right based approach and gender mainstreaming by the local institutions (centres for social work, municipality, health institutions).



Two Erasmus incoming scholars prof. Georgi Velichkov and dr. Mario Marinov from the South-West University "Neofit Rilski" from Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria will visit the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje from 14th till 18th of October 2019. They will participate at the 1st European Conference for Religious Dialogue and Cooperation, organised by the Faculty of Philosophy's Center for Intercultural Studies and Research.

On the 18th of October, prof. Gerogi Velichkov will deliver a lecture for students at the Faculty of Philosophy, entitled: "The problem of Good and Evil in St. Augustine's philosophy".