

SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS UNIVERSITY IN SKOPJE, FACULTY OF  
PHILOSOPHY

INSTITUTE OF SOCIOLOGY



INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

**“FROM STABILITY TO FLUIDITY: CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGICAL  
PERSPECTIVES ON ‘NORMALITY’ IN 21st CENTURY SOCIETIES”**

September 10-12, 2025, Skopje

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

Dear colleagues,

The Institute of Sociology at the Faculty of Philosophy, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, is proudly celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. To mark this milestone, we are delighted to invite scholars and researchers to participate in the upcoming international scientific conference dedicated to this occasion. The conference will be held from September 10 to 12, 2025, in Skopje, North Macedonia.

The idea of re-examining “normality” in 21st-century societies challenges the sociological tradition of studying social structures in their stable state. What can we say today about the stability of social norms, values, laws and morality? The general goal of the conference is to rethink the concept of “normality” in contemporary conditions - does it represent a state of stability that is being strived for or a dynamic process of continuous adaptation that facilitates the integration of individuals into communities?

The conference’s title is inspired from the use of ideas like “fluid society,” “liquid modernity,” “multiple normalities” and other which in the sociological analyses are used for conceptualizing the new and ever more flexible and short-lived forms of sociability. Both, the new ideas and the process raise the question of redefining “normality” in contemporary societies. In sociology and other social sciences, these analyses highlight the changing nature of attitudes towards work, marriage, family, friendships, urban and rural phenomena, and economic relations - especially in their grey and black zones, such as corruption. It changes also the institutional frames characteristic for the modern, fixed norms and principles.

In such situations, individuals develop a unique rationality, which encourages them to act based on their priorities, which often change depending on the context. Instead of adhering to predefined rules, they adopt flexible identities, allowing them to adapt more quickly and efficiently to rapid and unpredictable societal changes. This highlights a dynamic process of constantly reshaping individual and collective identity in response to complex social challenges.

**Questions and discussion guidelines:**

- What moves the world rapidly, and what role do digital technologies play in this process? Are they merely tools that simplify daily life and foster development, or have

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they evolved into "independent variables" exerting a tangible influence on social structures? What new reality is being shaped by digital technologies and social networks? What defines virtual communities, and what does be a "digital person" mean? What is it like to be human in the age of artificial intelligence? These are fundamental questions that challenge contemporary sociology.

- Is education prepared to adapt individuals to the dynamics of the "fluid society", where social relations are becoming increasingly flexible and changeable? What are the main agents of socialization in the contemporary world, besides education, such as family, media, and digital platforms?
- A key challenge is the concept of "social competition," which shapes the modern social relations model that increasingly resembles "fixed-term contracts" - where everyone is both a client and a supplier. What rationality emerges from this dynamic? What is the new rationality governing behaviour and interactions in such a society?
- Amid political and economic transformations, particular attention is drawn to the new political culture, political leadership, electoral processes, and civic activism. The central question remains: what is happening to democracy in the 21st century?
- Economic inequality and poverty are giving rise to new forms of social injustice and economic insecurity - risks that are further exacerbated by climate change, which drives mass migration and deepens global imbalances. Youth migration is particularly noteworthy, especially in the Macedonian context, as it represents both a social issue and potentially a political one. This migration often reflects broader societal and economic challenges, with implications for the country's demographics, labour market, and political landscape.
- Social structure indicators highlight new divides - the gap between the rich and poor steadily widens. The middle class, once the foundation of economic stability, is also under siege, increasingly impoverished and marginalized in the economic system. Neoliberalism in the 21st century brings implications far beyond economics, significantly impacting culture, law, politics, and education. Promoted as a concept of free markets and minimal state intervention, neoliberalism today presents complex civilizational challenges, including rising economic inequality and the dominance of corporate interests.

**Abstract Submission:**

Submissions must be in English and should include the title, keywords (maximum four), abstract (up to 300 words), author(s) name, affiliation, and email address.

Each author may submit one paper as the first author or as a co-author (maximum two authors per paper).

Papers must be formatted according to the APA citation style, and maximum 30,000 characters, including spaces. **Working languages:** Macedonian and English **Important dates:**

Abstract submission deadline: **May 5, 2025**

Notification of acceptance: **May 30, 2025**

Registration: **July 30, 2025**

Full paper submission deadline: **September 30, 2025**

Acceptance notices and peer review: **November 15, 2025**

Peer-reviewed papers will be published in the **Conference Proceedings** or as a special issue of *The Sociological Review*.

**Conference Venue: in the premises of the** Faculty of Philosophy and the Rectorate of the University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius

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**Accommodation and travel:** Participants are responsible for arranging their own accommodation and traveling expenses (not covered by the organizers).

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Participation application 2025: <http://fzf.ukim.edu.mk/wp-content/uploads/Participation-application.doc>