



European
Sociological
Association

European Sociological Association RN36 – Sociology of Transformations: East and West, Institute of sociology Czech Academy of sciences

cordially invite you to submit paper proposals for the

Midterm Conference of ESA RN36 (ONLINE)

„ In search of new dimensions of social transformations”

March 26-27, 2021, Prague, Czech Republic

Scope and questions of the Conferences:

Transformative processes occur worldwide. During recent decades, we could see with our own eyes that transformations might move history in entirely new directions. Transformations can be subject to various interpretations from different theoretical perspectives. Classical sociological approaches to social transformation focusing on ‘old’ dimensions – crises, revolutions, social inequality and stratification, long-term economic and social development, are getting new attention and rethinking. Emerging social issues require constant research monitoring, followed by theorising upon research data and relate to various factors: external, such as increasing competition at the global level and the management of complexity, climate change; internal, such as demographic developments, new generations, migration issues, cultural practices and consumption, secularisation, transformation of labour and the learning environments. Digital revolution is reshaping our societies and the pace of change is set to accelerate even further. Recent challenges come from experiencing the world pandemic.

The transformation of European societies and beyond has globalising, regionalising and localising dynamics. Change deserves to be explored in many areas of social life in CEE countries as well as all over the world. Some specific areas of research may be more a part of the mainstream, while others seem to be at a peripheral point of scientific discourse.

The conference seeks to contribute debates by collecting ideas about new dimensions of social transformations and their studies.

- How are social, cultural, economic and political dimensions transforming? How do “new” dimensions intersect with commonly used ‘old’ ones? Which are the more competitive, complex and fragmented areas in social life?
- What are new challenges societies have recently experiences including the pandemic? Are generational and technological factors in this respect are decisive? Does political governance lead to new transformations and reforms? What are new divides arising and new types of social groupings and belongings emerging?
- What are digital, informational and technological factors? Where are generational shifts and knowledge/education based innovations leading to? What is a role of geographical, historical, ecological and natural resources factors? What could be unanticipated consequences

of transformation in these new dimensions?

- How to reveal and study these transformations? What is role of sociology here? What are intellectual debates impact on social changes discourse?

Keynote speakers:

Mike Savage (*London School of Economics and Political Sciences*) 'Rethinking social class in a time of escalating inequality'

Petra Guasti (*Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main*) On Illiberal turn in Central Europe or Understanding the autocratic roots of technocratic populism

Marju Lauristin (*University of Tartu, Estonia*) Looking at social transformations through the morphogenetic lense: could pandemic become a generative mechanism of social morphogenesis?

Abstract, language, and submission:

The organizers invite theoretically or empirically grounded papers on the above topics. Special consideration will be given to empirically grounded papers, either comparative or country-based. The language of the abstracts, the papers and the conference will be English. Abstracts should be about 400 words long and should be accompanied by the name(s) of the author(s), his/her/their affiliation(s) and e-mail(s).

Please submit your paper via link provided on the [webpage of the conference](https://www.soc.cas.cz/rn36midterm):

<https://www.soc.cas.cz/rn36midterm>

Important Deadlines:

- Deadline for submitting paper proposals (max. 400 words) – **February 15, 2021**
- Notification of paper acceptance – **February, 25, 2021**
- Deadline for registration – **March 10, 2021**

Conference Fees: No fees

Conference will be held online and organized by ESA RN36 "Sociology of transformations: East and West"; and Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences.

If you have practical questions please do not hesitate to contact local organizers: esa@soc.cas.cz