

PREFACE

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On September 25, 2018, the Sociological Doctoral School at the Eötvös Loránd University Faculty of Social Sciences, in conjunction with the ELTE Faculty of Law Political Science Doctoral School, organised an international conference with the participation of doctoral students conducting research in the fields of social science. The goal of the conference was to share key hypotheses and research results with each other in sections and with participating professors. The event was supported by EU project EFOP-3.6.3.-VEKOP-16-2017-00007 “Young researchers from talented students,” which supported the career path building activities of researchers in higher education.

At the end of the conference the editors of this volume asked the moderators of the given sections to choose those presentations which in their judgment were most successful. We have selected presentations for this volume which were recommended by section moderators and whose authors agreed to further develop into papers.

We eventually chose seven exciting and outstanding studies, which can be put into two wide thematic blocks.

The first thematic block contains articles concerning key questions on Europe’s past, present and future.

Éva Számely’s article studies the development of value systems that have in the long term determined day to day life in European societies. She uncovers the definitive effects on the mentality and attitudes of Europeans of the developmental regions of Europe described in the 1980s by Jenő Szűcs.

Géza Tokár writes about three local independence movements which threaten the unity of the European Union’s political structure. He demonstrates that the historical precedents and social support for the movements diverge significantly. He takes a position whereby the movements demanding actual or perceived independence in Catalonia, Scotland and Northern Italy are deemed a threat to the unity of the European Union when European decision makers neglect their causes.

Tibor Hargitai’s study deals with reconstructing the meme of EU-scepticism using the metaphor of the “epidemic”. The site of his study is contemporary Holland, where EU-scepticism and steps to oppose migration have been adopted by the majority of parties in parliament. At the same time the infection has not resulted in wide political breakthroughs.

Emese Kővágó’s case study on East-Central Europe looks at the post-1945 traumatic period of the history of Hungarians in Serbia. She uncovers the mutual effects of reciprocal Serbian-Hungarian atrocities. The strength

of the paper is its ability to show how the Serbian majority and Hungarian minority are able to move beyond the silencing grip of the trauma. The study shows the places and rituals of remembrance that do not separate but instead bring together the two ethnic communities.

The second part of the volume deals with topics of the sociology of families. In the post-modern age the place and role of families has changed radically.

Klára Tatár Kiss studies the differentiating effects of Protestant and Catholic value systems in motivations for female success. A unique strength in her paper is that she introduces the issue of the relation of women to religious value systems, which is of particular significance given the appearance of Islam across Europe.

Based on a national Hungarian representative quantitative database, Kitti Kutrovátz studies the relations between socio-economic status and the amount of time parents spend on their children. Concentrating on family time that aims to create well-being and enhance the child's cognitive skills, the paper confirms the importance of social status. The results demonstrate that there are diverse patterns of time parents spend with their teenage children according to families' socioeconomic status. Consequently, parents in upper classes spend more time with their children on activities that might be enriching for them, like helping with homework and eating together.

Polina Zhodkova examines one of the most important aspects of family life, namely the practice of power over the family budget between men and women. According to her study, agreement and the lack of agreement on the family budget is one of the most important predictors of long cohabitation or divorce. The probability of expected developments, however, are influenced by the family status of the couple: in the case of married couples the likelihood of financial arguments and possible splitting up is lower than it is for those living together unmarried.

A note to the reader: while the studies in this volume were selected at a relatively late stage in the doctoral studies of the authors, it is possible that results and conclusions will require further clarification and fine-tuning. We publish these studies in the hope it will help the authors complete their doctoral studies and inspire our other students to produce work of a similar high quality.