



Center for Ethnographic Research and Applied Anthropology in collaboration with the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Sts. Cyril and Methodius University announces

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### International conference on “Solidarity and support in a post-welfare era”

*In light of the 60th anniversary of the devastating earthquake in Skopje*

*September 14-15, 2023*

The notion of solidarity spontaneously evokes a certain idea of a society grounded in values of mutual commitment and empathy toward the others. As a social practice, it manifests itself in situations of human crises - pandemics, earthquakes, war conflicts, migration and displacements due to climate and environmental changes. And yet, solidarity is also a concept that refers to fundamental social relationships taking place in everyday life, based on mutuality, sharing and reciprocity. Everytime we refer to solidarity, we engage both with its descriptive and normative meaning. In July 2023 we mark the 60th anniversary of the devastating earthquake in Skopje, an event that prompted widespread global action and facilitated the process of bynaming Skopje as a "city of solidarity". As we reflect on the aftermath of the earthquake and the following decades of physical and symbolic reconstruction, we would like to invite authors to critically examine conceptions of solidarity through the expression of shared values and mutual support, as well as forms of non-solidarity or the margins of solidarity in the context of the post-welfare era.

The concept of solidarity has a long tradition in social sciences since Durkheim's pioneering work (1897) emphasizing the idea of its importance for social cohesion. Over time it has been rather neglected until it finally arises again in the context of globalization of local and regional crises. Solidarity is no longer only a theoretical concept, it is also central for activists and political actors. All address (or instrumentalise) the question of mutual support and how to achieve togetherness for betterment of livelihoods and common wellbeing. Solidarity operates within the mutuality realm where practices of sharing and mutual support that are opposed to the values of the market realm (Gudeman 2009). The construction and manifestation of solidarity in different ways has changed in the 60 years since the Skopje earthquake. Shifting geopolitical landscapes, socioeconomic realities and population movements have altered local practices and value systems. The notion of welfare, strongly associated with economics and policy in the form of social security, has also been examined in anthropology, as the creation of well-being (Appadurai, 2004), linked to a critical exploration of care provision (Read and Thelen, 2007), and through forms of 'hidden welfare' in connection to social economy (Rakopolous, 2015). From states that once encompassed welfare, through neoliberal transformations, we

invite participants to engage with solidarity, or the lack of it, in light of changing political dynamics as well as reflections on hegemonic narratives on welfare at a local community or broader macro level.

We invite papers dealing with the notion of solidarity, well-being and welfare from different disciplines in several subthemes:

- Solidarity and welfare in theory and practice
- Solidarity in historical perspective
  - Traditional forms of solidarity
  - Solidarity and volunteerism in socialist societies
  - Solidarity in capitalist, liberal and neoliberal societies
- Solidarity and economies
  - Solidarity and political ecology
  - The price of solidarity: value, sacrifice, capital
  - Mutuality and/or reciprocity: understanding the role of the social and solidarity Economy in the past and in the future.
  - Solidarity and mutual support in times of recession
- Solidarity and Vulnerability
  - Collective care as praxis
  - Perspectives on solidarity in humanitarianism
  - Informal welfare in crisis
  - Public health
- Spaces of solidarity
  - Borders and buffer zones
  - Natural, war disaster zones
  - Migrant solidarity work
  - Religious institutions
- Shapes of welfare
  - The political concept of welfare, welfare as a social principle, epoch or possible future

We invite submissions for presentations of up to 15 minutes. Please send proposals (300 words) to [ceipa.mkd@gmail.com](mailto:ceipa.mkd@gmail.com) by **May 31, 2023**. Applicants will be notified of their submission status by June 20th, 2023.

Abstracts should be sent in a Word document. The document should include the presentation title, a 300-word abstract, as well as the applicant's full name, institutional affiliation and contact information.

The conference will be held in Skopje, North Macedonia on September 14-15, 2023. For additional information, please contact Eda Starova [eda@pmf.ukim.mk](mailto:eda@pmf.ukim.mk).

**Scientific committee**

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