SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS UNIVERSITY IN SKOPJE
INSTITUTE OF SOCIOLOGICAL, POLITICAL AND JURIDICAL RESEARCH – SKOPJE

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIOLOGICAL POLITICAL AND JURIDICAL RESEARCH

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

Challenges in Transforming Society

Skopje, 21 October 2026

Organized on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Institute

GENERAL SCHEDULE

Time	Programme
09:30–10:00	Registration of participants
10:00–10:15	**Opening Session – Welcome Addresses** **Prof. Dr. Petar Atanasov** – Director, Institute of Sociological, Political and Juridical Research **Prof. Dr. Ivana Janeska Stamenkovska** – Vice-Rector for Science, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje **Prof. Dr. Ruzhica Cacanoska** – President of the Organizing Committee
10:15–10:45	**Keynote Lecture – Prof. Sergej Flere**
	Nationalist Fabulations in History Textbooks from Yugoslav Republics and Their Successors
10:45–11:00	Coffee break
11:00–13:10	**Parallel Sessions I**
13:10–14:00	Lunch break
14:00–16:10	**Parallel Sessions II**
16:10–16:15	Closing Remarks by the President of the Organizing Committee

Presentation format: approximately 10 minutes per presentation, followed by a joint discussion at the end of each session.

PARALLEL SESSION I

11:00–13:10

ROOM 1

Session A1 – Identity, History, Memory and Nation-Building

Moderator: Dragor Zarevski

No.	Paper and author(s)
	PART I | 11:00–11:50
1	**History as Conditionality: Identity Sovereignty and Ontological Security in Macedonia's EU Accession** *Mitko B. Panov & DoncheTasev*
2	**Ethnology and I: Reflexivity, Self-Reflexivity, and the Biographical Method In Contemporary Ethnology and Anthropology** *Mirjana Mirchevska*
3	**Digital Transformation of Theatre Festival Memory: Digitizing the Legacy of the Macedonian Theatre Festival 'Vojdan Chernodrinski'** *Ana Stojanoska*
4	**The Views of Charles Wright Mills about Social Sciences, Education, Universities and Society and Their Relevance Today** *Zlatko Zhoglev & Ruzhica Cacanoska*
5	**Sociology in Macedonian Society - Institutional Challenges** *Konstantin Minoski & Antoanela Petkovska*
	SHORT BREAK | 11:50–12:00
	PART II | 12:00–13:10
6	**Ethnic Distance Versus Social Values Among Public University Students in Macedonian Society 2016–2026** *Petar Atanasov*
7	**Political Participation among University Students in North Macedonia: Electoral Intentions and Campus Engagement** *Dragor Zarevski*
8	**Migration Intentions, Identity Adaptation and Transnational Belonging among Young People from North Macedonia: A Mixed-Methods Analysis** *Ruzica Cacanoska & Ivan Blazhevski & Vesna Zabijakin-Chatleska*
9	**National, Ethnic, European or Global? Situational Identity Orientations and Artificial Intelligence among University Students in North Macedonia** *Driton Maljichi & Goran Janev*
10	**Stoyan Christowe's Legacy in the Culture of North Macedonia Decades After the 90s** *Igor Pop Trajkov*
	Discussion | 12:50–13:10

ROOM 2

Session B1 – Digital Transformation, Communication and Organizations

Moderator: Ivan Blazhevski

No.	Paper and author(s)
	PART I | 11:00–12:00
1	**Artificial Intelligence and the Transformation of Professional Communication: New Communication Practices, Social Media and Organizational Culture** *Aleksandra Srbinovska-Donchevski & Natasha Todorovska*
2	**Digital HRM Capability Model for North Macedonia's Smart Specialisation Strategy** *Ana Josimovska Nikolov & Marija Topuzovska Latkovikj & Mirjana Borota Popovska*
3	**From Cultural Intelligence to Project Success: A Sociological Reading of Project Managers' Competencies** *Valentina Šimičić*
4	**The Role of Sport in the Transformation of Contemporary Society: Towards a Healthy and Sustainable Lifestyle** *Lence Aleksovska & Marko Velickovski*
5	**Before the Scale-Up: Ex Ante Observable Indicators of Subsequent Growth in Swedish Technology Ventures** *Blazhe Josifovski & Jelena Tast*
6	**Professional Social Distance Toward Migrant Patients in the Croatian Hospital System: The Perspective of Nurses and Medical Technicians** *Aleksandar Racz & Ljerka Armano & Andrea Armano*
	SHORT BREAK | 12:00–12:10
	PART II | 12:10–13:10
7	**Digital Civilization and the Mental Health Challenge** *Besa Nuredini & Ali Pajaziti*
8	**Work–Family Arrangements Through Polycrisis: Evidence from Central, Eastern and Southeast Europe** *Marija Bashevska*
9	**No Resilience Without Trust: Institutional Capacity and Societal Cooperation** *Aleksandar Grizhev & Vesna Popovska*
10	**Between Ethical Codes and Social Reality: Ethical and Practical Challenges of Medical Personnel in the Healthcare System in the Republic of North Macedonia** *Hazize Jonuzi*
	Discussion | 12:50–13:10

PARALLEL SESSION II

14:00–16:10

ROOM 1

Session A2 – Religion, Secularization and Social Transformation

Moderator: Ruzhica Cacanoska

No.	Paper and author(s)
	PART I | 14:00–14:45
1	**Called to Multiply: Religious Institutions and the Politics of Natalism in Eastern Europe** *Beth Admiraal*
2	**From State-Led Secularism and Modernization to Religious Disengagement: The Transformation of Religion and the Rise of Generational Secularization in Modern Turkey** *Nuri Tinaz*
3	**Art as Faith's Language of Hope** *Kosta Milkov*
4	**The State Appropriation of Religion Today** *Nonka Bogomilova*
5	**Religion as a Cultural Code: Family, Religious Socialization and Traditional Practices among Young People in North Macedonia** *Ivan Blazhevski & Ruzhica Cacanoska*
	SHORT BREAK | 14:45–15:00
	PART II | 15:00–16:10
6	**Religious Identity in the School Environment: Reflections from Contemporary Macedonian Education** *Aneta Jovkovska & Gjoko Gjorgjevski*
7	**Monasticism in Macedonia: Between Socialist Marginalization and Pluralistic Revitalization** *Maja Angelovska-Panova*
8	**The Impact of Modern Technology on Religious Practices and Social Engagement of Believers: A Comparative Analysis of Serbia and Malta** *Mirko Blagojević & Ljiljana Ćumura*
9	**Between Faith and Experience: Religiosity Through Personal Experience** *Vladimir Bakrač*
10	**Religion as a Source of Solidarity – Student Protests in Serbia** *Danijela Gavrilović*
11	**The Protestantization of Roma – The Collapse of the Traditional Concept of Rromanipen or Not?** *Dragan Todorović & Dragoljub Djordjevic*
	Discussion | 15:55–16:10

ROOM 2

Session B2 – Institutions, Law, Sustainable Development and Artificial Intelligence

Moderator: Petar Atanasov

No.	Paper and author(s)
	PART I | 14:00–15:00
1	**Sustainable Development Requires Successful Regulation and Management of Socially Relevant Diversities** *Mitja Zhagar*
2	**The Position of the Minister of Justice in the Republic of N. Macedonia: Between Constitutional Constraints, Normative Structuring, and the Crisis of the Judicial Architecture** *Jove Kekenovski*
3	**The Impact of Social Media in Preventing Crime** *Natasha Todorovska & Aleksandra Srbinovska-Donchevski & Sofka HadzijevskaPostolovska*
4	**Artificial Intelligence as a New Social Paradigm – Legal and Ethical Challenges** *Igor Kambovski & Ivica Josifović*
5	**Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development: Legal Mechanisms and Sociological Challenges** *Svetlana Veljanovska & Arse Petreski*
6	**Digitalizing the External Vote: Electoral Reform, Diaspora Enfranchisement and Political Contestation in North Macedonia** *Bojana Naumovska & Ivan Stefanovski*
	SHORT BREAK | 15:00–15:10
	PART II | 15:00–16:10
7	**Regulatory Integration without Full Technological Sovereignty: How Uneven AI Governance Capacities Constrain the European Union's Technological Sovereignty** *Dragor Zarevski*
8	**From a 'Negative Legislator' to Constitutional Judicial Activism: The Slovenian Experience and the Challenges of Modern Constitutional Justice** *Tatjana Vasikj Bozadjieva*
9	**Inequality and the State – Economic Inequality as a Growing Problem of Society** *Marijana Maksimović*
10	**Applying the European Convention on Human Rights to Artificial Intelligence: Lessons from Case Law of the European Court of Human Rights** *Jelena Ristić*
11	**Artificial Intelligence in Juvenile Justice: Regulating Digital Transformation while Protecting Children's Rights** *Tijana Angova Hadjieva*
	Discussion | 15:50–16:10