

*"You one, we all have to endure another's opinion. Democracy means discussion"*  
Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk



**CHARLES UNIVERSITY  
UNIVERSITY OF ZIELONA GÓRA  
PALACKÝ UNIVERSITY OLMOUC  
CONNECTIVITY CENTRE**

*Invite to take part in:*  
**International Scientific Conference**  
**GOOD CONNECTIONS**  
**FROM ISOLATION TO COOPERATION**  
**Prague 26-27.09.2019**

We invite you to participate in the international, interdisciplinary conference from the series "Good Connections". We would like to focus on the issue of overcoming isolationist tendencies in various areas of social life and on developing the ability to cooperate. We invite social researchers, sociologists, urban planners, pedagogues, psychologists and representatives of other fields and disciplines.

The conference has three purposes – taking up the discussion, exchanging of information and, above all, expanding the research cooperation network

**Purposes of the conference:**

1. Undertaking a discussion on the subject of isolationist tendencies in the contemporary world and explaining deficits in the scope of undertaking and developing interpersonal and intergroup cooperation.
2. Exchanging of information on conducted research on the phenomenon, causes and consequences of isolation in social life and strategies for developing cooperation between groups, organizations, institutions.
3. Expanding international scientific cooperation network under the "Connectivity Center". The Center undertakes research on overcoming isolation and

development of cooperation in various areas of social life (politics, culture, media, education).

**Themes:**

We look forward to the proposal of papers addressing the issue of isolation, isolationism and conditions for the development of cooperation in the following areas:

- International relations, ethnic and social conflicts,
- Crossborder issues, migrations, anti-immigrant moods,
- Public sphere and cross-sector cooperation,
- Education, deficit of cultural and social capital,
- Religion, fundamentalism, ecumenism, interreligious dialogue
- Media and social media, filtering bubbles
- Urban planning and urban regeneration,
- Social economy and social entrepreneurship,
- Social policy and social care,
- Social participation, distrust and reconstruction of social trust.

**More details about conference (thematic groups etc.) you will find below.**

## **Practical information:**

- Proposals up to 250 words and a brief biographical note should be sent by: **25.06.2019** the application form is available at the conference website: **[www.connections.wpps.uz.zgora.pl](http://www.connections.wpps.uz.zgora.pl)**
- Selected papers will be qualified for publication in the journal:
  - a) **e-Pedagogium**  
<https://www.pdf.upol.cz/veda/odborne-casopisy/e-pedagogium>
  - b) **“Problems of Profession”**.  
<http://www.problemy-profesjologii.uz.zgora.pl/en/index.html>  
(Publication requires two positive reviews prepared by two independent reviewers)
  - c) **“Review of Nationalities”**,  
<http://www.ip.uz.zgora.pl/index.php/przeglad-narodowosciowy>  
(Publication requires two positive reviews prepared by two independent reviewers):
  - d) **“Edukacja Humanistyczna”**,  
<https://wshtwp.pl/edukacja-humanistyczna>  
(Publication requires two positive reviews prepared by two independent reviewers).

All the journals have double-blind procedures of evaluating texts.

- **Registration fee** - 100 Euro (or 2700 CZK) should be paid by **15 July 2019**
- The bank account number is available at the conference website: **[www.connections.wpps.uz.zgora.pl](http://www.connections.wpps.uz.zgora.pl)** . Payment is available in Euro and in Czech Crowns.
- **The fee includes:** participation in the conference, coffee breaks, lunch on the first day of the conference, dinner (in the evening also on the first day of the conference). The accommodation and the transport costs are paid by the participants.

**Conference venue:** Charles University, Celetná 20, 116 42, Praha I - Staré město, Prague, Czech Republic

Website of the conference: [www.connections.wpps.uz.zgora.pl](http://www.connections.wpps.uz.zgora.pl)

E-mail: [connections@wpps.uz.zgora.pl](mailto:connections@wpps.uz.zgora.pl)

## **SCIENTIFIC BOARD:**

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## **INVITATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROJECTS:**

### **1. PUBLIC GOVERNANCE AND SOCIAL COHESION**

Contemporary local communities are more and more often oriented towards the implementation of the principle of partnership between public authorities and social entities, representing the interests of citizens. These activities have their specific manifestations in the sphere of governance. Emphasis is placed on shaping the interaction between participants of different status representing different spheres (economy and labor market, culture, social policy, social support, education, renewal, housing, health care and others), which allow communication and participation in decision-making processes. One of the important consequences of these is expected: the increase the social cohesion of local communities and the well-being of their inhabitants. In this context, local communities can be seen as a challenge to reformulate their functioning in order to engage in co-decision-making the partners from all sectors. The aim of the project to which we would like to invite you is to diagnose the conditions (causes, consequences, factors, barriers) of developing social cohesion of local communities with regard to the principles of inclusion in decision-making processes and collective actions on their behalf.

### **2. LIVING BRIDGES IN A DIVIDED SOCIETY**

In today's society, we observe numerous, sometimes deep, intergroup divisions. In this situation, some individuals undertake activities for contact, reconciliation, dialogue, understanding, intergroup cooperation. They play the role of "living bridges" between divided parties. We invite you to participate in an international, interdisciplinary research project. Its purpose is to describe, compare and interpret the activities of people who play the role of living bridges in various cultural, social and political contexts.

### 3. MEDIA SPACE AS AN AREA OF SHAPING SOCIAL COMPETENCES

The widespread presence of all kinds of media has led to the social life of a large part of contemporary individuals being parallel in two worlds - real and virtual. Undertaken decisions and processes taking place in one of these worlds have a direct impact on the course of events in the other. These realities can no longer be separated because they interpenetrate each other and establish an augmented reality that has completely new properties and is governed by new values. Augmented reality requires its participants (users) to have new competences and to follow the rules existing in it. We invite you to participate in the project, which aims to establish the relationship between digital and social competences and ways of shaping them in this new reality.

### INVITATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SPECIAL THEMATIC GROUPS:

#### 1. CONTEMPORARY URBAN POLICIES. URBAN REGENERATION

Urban regeneration has become a permanent part of the image of urban policies implemented in many EU countries. However, while it has an older tradition in Western European countries, in Central and Eastern European countries it has only been implemented for about two decades. This raises the question of the chances that the Czech Republic, Poland and other neighbour countries undergoing recent transformation will reach for solutions applied in highly developed systems. It is possible to adopt one's own solutions, which, however, is connected with the risk of "learning from one's own mistakes". The scale of urban regeneration activities, supported by EU grants, is worthy of reflection by specialists. The aim of the session will be to discuss the current directions of urban policies in the EU Member States and the specific nature of urban regeneration activities.

#### 2. BETWEEN URBAN PLANNING AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Currently, one of the most important problems of society development is the acceleration of urbanization processes, the increase in the population affected by energy poverty and the growing dependence between consumption and threats caused by climate change. Threats associated with growing urbanization and constantly increasing demand for electricity affect both social, environmental and technical processes. Therefore, there is a need to explore, analyze and understand the relationship of socio-technical systems through a knowledge-based approach and the use of intelligent solutions to optimize programs that improve the quality of life of the society.

**Topics include, but are not limited to, the following areas:**

- Stratification of society as a result of spatial policy;
- Assessment of the impact of buildings on the environment and human beings;
- Adaptation of development programs to climate change;
- Energy poverty and climate justice
- Aging society and threats of isolationist tendencies;
- Sustainable design;
- Geospatial analysis for the needs of integrated design.

#### 3. CRITICALLY ASSESSING TOOLS FOR E-DELIBERATION AND E-GOVERNANCE

Technological advances have dramatically changed the way in which societies govern themselves through e-participation tools and e-voting. It thus becomes increasingly important to critically assess the impact and design of e-deliberation and e-governance

online tools and platforms. Tool development and improvement can be informed by structured analyses of:

- the characteristics of e-deliberation and e-governance processes.
- their impact on solving underlying social problems, like distrust, corruption, inequality of participation, cross-border issues, migration effects, social conflict and so on.
- the blended offline and online nature of e-deliberative democracy and how best to harness this mixed process for democratic governance.

We invite you to participate in a project which aims to develop a new tool for e-deliberation based on a critical assessment of these important issues.

## **4. EDUCATION – FORMING COOPERATIVE HUMANITY TODAY**

We can often hear that our society is an “educational” one. In such a society we can expect that isolationist problems have been overcome – but they have not. We should then carefully reflect on our educational ideas, concepts and educational systems. We are experiencing serious problems concerning crisis of schooling, educational authority and many others.

In educational thematic group we want to discuss topics such as:

- Inclusion, with its social and political context;
- Educational forms leading to democratic thinking;
- The deficit of cultural and social capital - educational aspects of the problem;
- Education, personal and social identity;
- Education and problem of authority;
- Educational policy and its relation to the scientific research in education.

## **SPECIAL EVENT PROMOTION OF THE BOOK**

### ***MULTICULTURALISM. FROM CRISIS TO RENEWAL***

We invite you to participate in the discussion regarding the publication published in Prague in 2019 with the participation of authors from Poland, the Czech Republic and Portugal (Karolinum Publishing House). The aim of the publication was to describe and interpret the current state of multiculturalism. The starting point of the reflections and analyzes presented there was the conviction that multiculturalism understood both as an idea and as a social practice is currently experiencing a serious crisis. The work was divided into two parts: (1) The Idea of Multiculturalism and its Crisis and (2) Overcoming Crisis of Multiculturalism.