

Dear all,

we are pleased to invite everybody interested in participating in the 13th Young Sociologists Congress organized by the Students Scientific Association of Sociology and the Institute of Sociology of the Jagiellonian University. The whole event will take place from 12 to 14 April, 2024 within the walls of the Institute of Sociology of JU. The Young Sociologists Congress is an annual, scientific conference that provides a unique platform for the exchange of knowledge, experience and reflection on a variety of issues and problems of the modern world.

All those interested in sociological issues in the broadest sense are invited to send abstracts of papers. On the basis of these, the program and individual thematic panels will be created, so we encourage submissions from people who specialize in various fields of sociology, especially in thematic areas such as:

1. **Gender.** Although gender, sexuality and the norms associated with them have been at work since the inception of organized societies. It is the last few decades that have been marked by attempts to understand and fundamentally redefine these constructs. Thanks to gender studies and feminist research, we can deconstruct these concepts and better understand the complexity and dynamics of relations associated with sexuality and gender in an intersectional perspective. We want the Congress to address the issues of inequality and exclusion based on sex, gender identity or sexuality, and their impact on the formation of an individual's identity. In addition, there will also be space for issues related to parenting, norms of masculinity and femininity and the LGBTQ+ community, especially from an intersectional perspective.
2. **Critical sociology.** Focusing on in-depth and committed analysis of social structures and institutions, critical sociology aims to uncover mechanisms of power and forms of domination, and to highlight social inequality and injustice. This approach is described primarily by a critique of capitalism (individualistic, market, commodified), a critique of ideologies. The goal of this research area is the unmasking of the role and influence of mass culture and the media on the consciousness of individuals. It is also close to the issues of emancipation and social change.

3. **Sociology of urban and rural areas.** It is a very diverse sub-discipline that includes issues ranging from the social determinants of the development and dynamics of these areas, the development, functioning, crises and rebirth of social spaces, the successive unveiling of urbanization processes and the mobility of people, to lifestyles, the formation of local communities and the right to a just city and environment. Through a thorough analysis of the relationship between people and space, it allows us to understand the contemporary challenges of how different groups function in space, and to identify the inequalities and exclusions that affect them. In a multicultural and diverse society, understanding these dynamics is crucial, especially in the context of refugees and immigrants.
4. **Social research and data analysis.** Being an empirical science, sociology requires research, verification of the theses put forward, and, consequently, a sound methodology to conduct this research. Social research and data analysis are particularly interesting issues in the face of rapid technological advances and the increasing demands and complexity of society. Within this research area, we want to look at all aspects of empirical social research methodology, from designing and conducting research through data analysis, both qualitative and quantitative, to ethical challenges. At the same time, all topics related to the use of new technologies, such as artificial intelligence and big data, are equally interesting in this context.
5. **Religion and Spirituality.** Beginning with traditional topics such as the role of religion in society, the relationship between the state and the Church, and the phenomenon of religious pluralism, to new forms of spirituality, we wish to analyze the diverse faces of (in)religiosity and their roles in postmodernity. The field of sociology of religion also includes reflection on religious minorities in society, with an emphasis on their rights and the challenges they face in an increasingly diverse and multicultural environment. The goal of this research area is not only to understand contemporary religious dynamics, but also to anticipate how these phenomena will shape our collective future.

- 6. Power and Politics.** This research area is designed to explore the complex relationship between society and power structures. We would like to focus on key areas affecting power relations and the functioning of political systems, such as social movements, relations between individual institutions and social groups, their representation and exclusion. At the same time, we would like to lean into the challenges facing contemporary liberal democracies, from such already well-described phenomena as nationalism, populism or religious fundamentalism, to plutocracy or meritocracy, to problems associated with the development of technology, such as biopower and surveillance. In addition, we want the panel to reflect on current socio-political conflicts, including armed conflicts. By analyzing their causes and effects in depth, we will be able to better understand their consequences and the position of those affected, primarily refugees and immigrants.
- 7. Culture and art.** Culture is a product of society - as such, it is often taken for granted. It is such a broad and multicontextual phenomenon that it eludes clear definitions. Following Elżbieta Hałas, it can be reiterated that "contemporary conflicts are often played out in the cultural field of meanings, which gives culture a political dimension." Research taking into account this ambiguity was conducted by Pierre Bourdieu, who, among other things, on the basis of meticulous analyses of people's attitudes towards art and other cultural products, showed how we classify other people and want to resemble or distinguish ourselves from them. In this panel, we want to address issues related to, among others: pop culture, democratization and ambiguity of culture, sociology of art, contemporary digital culture, sociological analysis of works of art, media, both traditional and social media, and consumerism.
- 8. Digital society.** Digital media and new technologies have irreversibly changed our lives. Under the influence of the digital revolution, the ways of doing politics, operating economies have changed, and new challenges have emerged in the development of creative industries and the production of media content. Digitalization has affected education, the functioning of urban and rural spaces, transport and tourism, the labor market, as well as culture or people's everyday life and intimacy. All the transformations and revolutions brought about by the development of new digital technologies have their effects and consequences, which need to be carefully studied and described so that our understanding of the developing world keeps pace with the progress of technology itself, hence we want a space for this research area to emerge within the conference.

9. Sociology of economy and work. The unimaginable development of technology in the last century has dramatically changed the way the world works. In the capitalist system, particular signs of this can be found in every aspect of work and the functioning of the economy - from the types of work performed, to where it is provided, to the forms of employment. The globalization of production and services, digitization and platformization, the precarization of labor and the growing importance of unpaid work, as well as the changing relationship between productive and reproductive labor are just some of the processes affecting the contemporary world of labour. Within the framework of this thematic area, we would like to address issues such as: digitalization and its consequences for the economy and financial systems, social inequality (both at the micro and macro levels), the precariat and the broader topic of forms of employment (including concepts such as neo-feudalism, unpaid work and modern subjugation), exploitation, new technologies and work, sociology of the workplace, the development of remote and hybrid work, new patterns of labor careers, the labor market and prospects for its transformation, economic development and consumerism.

Important dates:

January 20, 2024. – opening of the call

February 18, 2024. – closing of the call

February 25, 2024. – announcement of acceptance of papers

We ask that proposals for speeches:

- Include a title and keywords (from 3 to 5)
- In volume, they should not exceed 400 words
- Do not contain in the body of the abstract data that allow identification of the author - paper proposals will be evaluated anonymously

Paper proposals can be submitted via the form available on the Young Sociologists Congress website, under the "Apply" tab ([link](#)).

Authors whose papers are accepted for presentation will be asked to pay a fee of 110 PLN.

We invite you to actively participate in the conference, send your submissions and share your research and reflections on the challenges of the modern world. We hope that, together with you, the 13th Young Sociologists Congress will become an event that, through the shared exchange of knowledge and experience, will be developing for each person attending.

Sincerely,

Organizing Committee of the Young Sociologists Congress