Migration is a long lasting phenomenon which has its historical, socioeconomic and cultural causes. This implies the existence of different kinds of migrations which are susceptible to constant processes of dynamic change. Thus it is necessary to permanently actualize this process and to theoretically and methodologically position it in accordance with cultural and social changes. It is also important to view migration as a global phenomenon and a huge flow of people and exchange, while at the same time keeping an eye on specific migration processes which take place on a local as well as a regional level.

Research into migration is a topic which has long been present in Serbian ethnology and anthropology, especially in the projects and publications headed by the Institute of Ethnography SASA. This thematic issue represents an attempt to maintain continuity with the tendency to put a focus on certain aspects of contemporary migrations and a critical retrospective of ethnological and anthropological research into migrations in Serbia up until now.

The first volume of the thematic issue presents the results of empirical research into certain types of migration, research conducted in the Ukraine, Italy, Kosovo and Serbia. The papers are based on different theoretical and methodological approaches. Regardless, each paper is a significant contribution to understanding current issues connected to the research locale. P. Hristov’s paper offers precious data on the issue of transparency of the migrations of Bulgarian diaspora in contemporary Ukraine. The focus is on the migration strategies of young people, with an accent on emigration to Bulgaria. B. Sikimić problematizes the transformation of a holy place, the church of Velika Gospa in Letinica in Kosovo, from the aspect of anthropological linguistics. The paper focuses on researching pilgrimage as a form of migration – a theme which was missing from previous research on the subject in Serbia. The papers authored by P. Riso and K. Mazzali, as well as M. Stojić Mitrović follow a similar discourse in dealing with the issue of the human rights violations in the treatment of asylum seekers, as well as existential problems these people face in Italy and Serbia. This type of migration represents one of the central issues in contemporary anthropological, demographic, sociological, and geographical research both in and outside Europe.

Papers which comprise the first volume of the thematic issue show that migration can be approached from a variety of aspects, depending on the research context. At the same time the papers suggest the necessity of an interdisciplinary approach to the issue, as well as a multidisciplinary discourse in research. They also testify to the validity of placing such research into the focus of contemporary ethnological and anthropological research.

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