

**Remembering transnational solidarity:
The case of 1963 Skopje earthquake and the Polish expert-aid in the first Macedonian sociological study**

The proposed research aims at discussing one immensely interesting, yet completely under-researched aspect of the Polish expert-aid in the Skopje's post-earthquake reconstruction in the mid-1960s. In 1964-65, the first ever sociological study was conducted in Skopje, co-coordinated by a team of four Polish sociologists affiliated with the Polish Academy of Sciences and a Yugoslav team of four social scientists, which was projected to be a postulation for the new Skopje Master Plan. For the 1964-65 study-project purposes, the coordinators employed and trained approximately 80 interviewers, mostly students at the Skopje University, a group which will partially translate as the first generation Macedonian sociologists, while the study – a prelude for the formation of the Institute of Sociology and Political-Legal Studies in Skopje [mk. *Institut za sociologija i političko-pravni istraživanja*] in 1965. The 1964-65 study-project, reported to be ongoing in the Polish press a year and a half after the earthquake, was never published *in toto* - neither in a Polish, nor in a Macedonian or Yugoslav popular or scientific outlet.

The Principle Investigator (PI further in the text), after discovering the study-materials and the field-notes in the Archive of the Faculty of Philosophy – Skopje, aims at reconstructing the initial findings and the memory of the work on the 1964-65 study-project. The cross-national, multileveled qualitative project thus offers (1) a secondary analysis – contextual, conceptual and discursive mapping of the initial 1964-65 study-materials, (2) a set of new expert interviews with the Polish and Macedonian sociologists involved in the study-project of 1964-65 (40-45 interviews) and (3) an interpretative framework for discussing the memories of the informants. Applying the “historical discourse analysis” (Brinton 2015) to the set of archival materials and interviews, the proposed project extrapolates the notion of solidarity (interethnic – as discussed in the initial study, and transnational – as remembered by the expert) and aims at discussing the discursive development of this category. The PI's argument, in these regards, predicates the 1964-65 pioneering study as a rereading which can provide valuable insight (due to its temporal frame of reference) and an unique map (due to its scale and scope) to the dynamics of the Skopje's interethnic solidarity in the 1960s. On a different note, the study of the mnemonic patterns of the Polish and Macedonian experts, a perspective which will be argued to be missing in the literature of the 1963 Skopje earthquake and the post-earthquake reconstruction, is an attempt to further grasp the nuances of the transnational project of solidarity – as remembered by the directly involved actors. The underlying question, herein, is how the notion of solidarity (both transnational and interethnic, as a memory of the joint-effort and the initial fieldwork in the 1960s) is reflected in the personal memories of the experts.