



THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION  
OF FOLK ART, POLISH SECTION



IOV Science and Research Commission for Europe  
Institute of Culture Studies of the University of Silesia in Katowice  
Faculty of Arts and Educational Science US in Cieszyn  
The Polish Section of IOV  
The Cieszyn Branch of The Polish Ethnological Society

organize IOV 17<sup>th</sup> European Scientific Conference of Folk Culture  
within the framework of celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Cieszyn  
Branch of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Silesia

## **Anthropology in the Borderland – Borderlands in Anthropology**

**The conference will be held from October 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, in Cieszyn (Poland).** The conference languages are Polish and English.

### **CALL FOR PAPERS AND ABSTRACTS**

The fundamental goal of the conference is to expand knowledge and share experiences of the borderland in the broad sense, in both social and cultural aspects. The fact that 30 years ago the University of Silesia ethnology centre was placed in Cieszyn in the Polish and Czech borderland facilitated the application of two essential perspectives in the studies conducted by this centre: those of cultural borderlands and of the awareness of regional and ethnic identity associated with them. Therefore, this meeting will, on the one hand, celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of functioning of our university-based research in ethnology

and anthropology and, on the other, will conduct debate and reflection on the current role of ethnology and cultural anthropology, its research problems - exceeding their boundaries and planning and performing various practical undertakings for local communities within this field and beyond it. The specificity of anthropology is not limited to an exact, isolated and cohesive research area but is constituted by a precise method of perceiving the cultural reality. It comes down to creatively pondering what is perceived in a given culture at a given historical moment as familiar, usual or obvious.

The proposed scope of the plenary debate is merely a suggestion for the conference participants, and does not exhaust all possible perspectives on the issue.

- **Borderland** is understood as a space with specific social and cultural qualities, an area of contact and multi-faceted practices that make up the culture of memory, the politics of identity, the spheres of power, control and resistance; it is also interpreted metaphorically as an interdisciplinary space for dialogue, academic reflection, and sharing research experiences;
- **Anthropology in action**, consists of synchronized research practices used to translate established theoretical knowledge into social practice. The knowledge of mechanisms shaping the functioning of cultures makes it possible to develop competence as part of social interactions and communication, and conduct actions for the communities studied with their participation;
- **Cultural ecology** is a study of humans and their culture in the context of sustainable development and ecological balance in the natural and social environment, of cultural phenomena occurring in the ecosystems based on harmonious functioning of man and the natural environment, and within the degraded post-industrial areas, of relations between the human and non-human world and the influence of man on the natural world in the Anthropocene epoch, of trans-border environmental management related to borderlines crossing natural ecosystems;
- **Cultural heritage** is a type of capital used in cultural politics, economy, and creative industries, in the strategy of building social and cultural identity, or treated as activities that explore the heritage, that is performative practices which, from a broader perspective, illuminate mechanisms of the functioning of modern culture; the heritage of the

borderland maintains cultural continuity beyond the borders and influences the identity of the borderland;

- **Techno-liquidity** (tecnoliquidità) **of culture and netnography** (currently commonly applied). Techno-liquidity is a distinctive feature of modern culture, it determines social behaviours and communication methods. Man, who functions in both the world and the virtual space, constantly finds himself on the borderland between experience and virtual exploration. In this sense, borderland may be treated metaphorically, as *differentia specifica* of the present epoch.

Presentation title and abstract (up to 200 words) of a proposed paper should be sent via e-mail to: [kinga.czerwinska@us.edu.pl](mailto:kinga.czerwinska@us.edu.pl) by **30<sup>th</sup> June, 2025** at the latest.

Further organization details regarding the conference will be provided in next conference circulars sent to the colleagues interested in participation.

Academic and organization committee:

Prof. dr hab. Anna Brzozowska-Krajka, chair of IOV Science and Research Commission for Europe and of Its Steering Committee, chair of IOV Polish Section

Prof. Letizia Bindi (Italy), University of Molise, Director of Centre of Research BIOCULT, chair of The Science and Research Commission in IOV Italian Section, member of The Steering Committee of IOV Science and Research Commission for Europe

Ajia Jansone (Latvia), PhD, Head of Ethnography Department. The Ethnographic Open-Air Museum of Latvia; IOV Latvian Section, member of The Steering Committee of IOV Science and Research Commission for Europe

Dr hab. Kinga Czerwińska, Associate Professor at University of Silesia, member of The Steering Committee of IOV Science and Research Commission for Europe

Dr hab. Anna Drożdż, Associate Professor at University of Silesia

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