The Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Banja Luka is organising the Fourth Scientific Conference with International Participation entitled SOCIETY AND POLITICS, featuring the topic of

**CHALLENGES OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: BETWEEN EVERYDAY LIFE AND TRANSHUMANISM**

Banja Luka, 29-30 September 2023

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

The development of digital technologies and their increasing integration into our daily activities has been transforming various aspects of human experience and, subsequently, various aspects of sociability itself. At the same time, the aforementioned processes have led to a series of grave philosophical and ethical dilemmas that post-humanism is concerned with, that is, that constantly urge us to reconsider our understanding of the state of affairs of humankind and our relationship with technology. With regard to that, today there are few areas of human experience/sociability that have not been, to some extent, mediated by digital transformation context, that is, by challenges concerning its consequences, such as:

• Evolution of communication. Digital platforms for communication, in the form of social media, applications for sending messages, and video-conferences, are becoming more and more common, which has significantly changed the way people communicate with each other. This transformation has raised issues on the influence of digital platforms on the range and quality of social relations, on mental health and privacy, as well as on the role of traditional methods of communication in the digital era;

• Future of labour. Working online, automation, and artificial intelligence have redefined working environment, creating possibilities for greater flexibility, productivity, and globalisation. Nevertheless, these processes have simultaneously voiced concerns about loss of a job, about exploitation of workers, and about the necessity for continual development of new skills and educational systems adapted to the changes in labour markets;

• Free time and entertainment. Digitalisation of entertainment, including streaming service platforms, gaming industry, and virtual reality, have transformed the way individuals consume and critique popular culture contents. This change has raised issues on potentially negative effects of digital dependence, on its influence on physical health of an individual, as well as on traditional forms of spending free time in the digital era;

• Digital intimacy and personal relationships. Online dating platforms, social media, and tools for virtual communication have created a fertile soil for establishing and maintaining personal relationships. As a result, this has led to raising numerous issues on the quality of digital relations, on the role of physical presence in creating intimacy, as well as on potential abuse, violence, or manipulation in digital environment;

• Post-humanism and state of affairs of humankind. The increasing integration of technology into our lives have encouraged discussions about the nature of human identity, enterprise, and conscience. As the progress in artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and human augmentation keeps blurring the border between people and machines, philosophers and ethics scholars have coped with issues concerning the essence of the human being, and they have offered various versions of the future of humankind;

• Digital ethics and privacy. The pervasive nature of digital technologies has raised enormous concerns on the issues of data privacy, surveillance, and possibilities of personal information abuse. These concerns have led to discussions about the necessity of providing better guidelines as regards ethical issues, regulatory frameworks, and education of digital contents users in order to protect the rights of individuals and ensure responsible exploitation of digital technologies;

• Social and economic inequalities in the digital era. The digital gap, that is, the difference between those who are allowed access to digital technologies and those who are not, is producing more and more pronounced negative consequences for social, economic, and educational affairs. This has started disputes over the need for providing equal access to technologies, that is, for starting an initiative for the equality in terms of digital education.

In accordance with the aforementioned, the papers submitted may concern, but they are not limited to, the following:

• Influence of digital technologies on social structures, institutions, and practices;

• The role of digital media in construing individual and social reality;

• Digital gap – political, economic, and cultural perspectives;

• Future of labour, of free time, and of consumption in the digital era;

• Digital surveillance, privacy, and safety concerns;

• Ethical and philosophical implications of post-humanism within the context of digital transformation;

• Artificial intelligence, automation, and future of human enterprise;

• Digital activism and social movements;

• The role of education in developing digital literacy and critical relation towards digital technologies;

• Policies and recommendations for managing digital transformations.

Apart from submissions concerning the title topic of the Conference, the Scientific Board is going to accept other relevant topics as well, with a view to promoting interdisciplinary scholarly engagement and exchange of ideas and experiences among scholars. In that sense, apart from scholars from the fields of sociology, political science, journalism, communication studies, and social work, we invite authors from other academic fields dealing with the interaction of digital technologies and society. In accordance with the papers submitted, the Scientific Board is going to establish respective panel sessions for the accepted papers to be presented in. The accepted papers are going to be published in a book of proceedings prior to the Conference or in the POLITEIA, a journal for social issues of the Faculty of Political Sciences (indexed with DOAJ, ERICH PLUS, and CEEOL lists).

The Conference is taking place in a hybrid format (on the premises of the Faculty and online).

Confucius Institute at the University of Banja Luka is the co-organizer of the conference.

The participation at the Conference is free of charge.

The organizers of the scientific conference will provide food and accommodation for participants coming from outside the post-Yugoslav countries.

The working languages of the Conference are the languages of former Yugoslav peoples and the English language.

**APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

The application form should contain the following: personal data, full name of the institution (affiliation) of the author, email address, title of the paper, abstract (up to 250 words), and key words. The abstract and key words are submitted in English as well. The authors apply electronically via the official email address of the Conference: drustvoipolitika@fpn.unibl.org or via the official website of the Conference, which is accessible at https://drustvoipolitika.fpn.unibl.org. The papers can be submitted in the same manner as the application forms.

The paper (Times New Roman, font size 12) must not exceed 16 pages, literature included, with reference to the IMRAD standards (Introduction, Methods, Results, Analysis, Discussion). References to other authors and citations to be provided within the text, with regard to APA style. The papers are going to be double peer-reviewed. Upon the reception of notification on the acceptance of the paper, the author is required to register for the Conference timely.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

Application form and abstract submission: by 12 May 2023

Information on abstract acceptance: by 22 May 2023

Paper submission: by 31 July 2023

Information on paper acceptance: by 10 September 2023

Registration of participants: by 15 September 2023

Time and venue of the Conference: Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Banja Luka, 29-30 September 2023