

*The current issue of the RASCEE was prepared under unique circumstances of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. Uncertainty, medical problems of some authors, lockdowns in many European countries and home-schooling duties and quarantines of authors, reviewers and editors meant that it was not clear how this year's issue would be prepared and which articles would be prepared in time for publishing.*

*As the ISORECEA Conference in Olomouc was postponed to spring 2021, it was not possible for the 2020 issue to follow the intended topic of "Religion on the Periphery" based on the conference. Thus, the 2020 RASCEE issue is a regular issue with three articles from Central Europe — one from Hungary and two from Slovakia. The current issue also contains four book reviews.*

*Although the 2020 issue is not a special issue focusing on a single topic, all three articles show us the transformation of religion as a public and political issue in the period after World War II. The articles present transformations of religiosity in different contexts: from the traditional community of a Catholic sisters order under the pressure of a communist regime, through the transformation of a Greek-Catholic community in Slovakia after the fall of communism and finally to the spread of new forms of religiosity connected with alternative spirituality. All three texts are based on qualitative methodology and show that there is deep interconnection of sociological, anthropological and historical methodologies in the understanding of transformations of religiosity, an idea that echoes one of the main standpoints of RASCEE as a multidisciplinary journal.*

*The first article by Zsuzsanna Bögre analyses the life stories of members of a female religious order during the Communist regime in Hungary from 1950 till 1989. This study shows strategies that enabled some sisters to "officially" survive as members of the order in a hostile ideological environment. It shows how the sisters' limited leeway changed the composition of their religious community, their relationships to one another and their leaders' tasks and led to creation of a new interpretation of asceticism.*

*The second article by Michal Uhrin is deeply anthropological but also has a strong historical background devoted to transformation of a rural Greek-Catholic community in Slovakia after the fall of the Communist regime. His ethnographic research rooted in Victor Turner's theory of ritual and symbols combined with cognitive anthropology shows an innovative approach to ethnographic study. On the basis of participant observations and ethnographic interviews, Uhrin demonstrated that the church and the cross can be categorised as dominant symbols in Christianity, particularly in this specific rural area, even though they bear different characteristics than dominant symbols.*

*The last article by Danijela Jerotijević and Martina Hagovská is based on anthropological in-depth interviews and participant observations of women in Slovakia who attended sessions of an alternative spiritual community with focus on interpretation of life events. The authors stress that involvement in alternative spirituality "encourages" greater sacralisation of one's experiences and gives them a deeper meaning.*

*The current issue was prepared in deep collaboration of the two main co-editors-in-chief, Miroslav Tížik and Nikolina Hazdovac Bajić, with support from the third co-editor-in-chief Gergely Rosta. Books reviews were prepared by Olaf Müller. The whole RASCEE editorial team wishes you deep intellectual pleasure from reading this issue and all the best in 2021, especially the end of COVID-19 pandemic!*

*Miroslav Tížik and Nikolina Hazdovac Bajić*

*December 2020*