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ETHNOANTHROPOZOOM: THE HISTORY OF A JOURNAL AND THE FUTURE OF THE DISCIPLINES (2000–2025)

Abstract: This paper offers a synthetic overview of twenty-five years of publishing activity of *EthnoAnthropoZoom*, the peer-reviewed journal of the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. Based on the printed issues, the electronic journal (https://etno.pmf.ukim.mk/index.php/eaz), the impressum sections, and the abstracts, the paper discusses the journal's position and mission; its languages of publication and accessibility; editorial structure and international character; indexing and digital infrastructure (DOI, open access); the history of publication and genre structure; as well as a content analysis with thematic clusters and shifts over the decades. Special attention is devoted to the more recent issues (2021–2024), where one can observe the strengthening of anthropological discourse, memory studies, postsocialist studies, and innovative approaches to digital methods in the treatment of cultural heritage.

Keywords: ethnology, anthropology, EthnoAnthropoZoom, open access, indexing, bilingualism, public anthropology, memories, digital methods.

"EthnoAnthropoZoom" – Position, Mission, and Editorial Framework

EthnoAnthropoZoom is a peer-reviewed scientific journal of the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University – Skopje. Its profile encompasses articles from ethnology, socio-cultural and linguistic anthropology, and other related disciplines. Since 2000, the journal has been published continuously in both print and electronic formats (Print ISSN 1409-939X; Online ISSN 1857-968X), with a clearly articulated open-access policy and standardized publishing metadata. Interdisciplinarity and regional comparative orientations represent a key conceptual line to which the Editorial Board pays careful attention, encouraging authors from the region and comparative studies to contribute.

Beginning as one of the rare online journals in Macedonia in the early 2000s, *EthnoAnthropoZoom* received initial funding from the Open Society Institute – Macedonia. Following the end of this project, the journal was left without financial support. The Ministry of Education and Science funded its print publication for only a few years, after which all ministerial calls ceased, leaving the journal to struggle for self-sustainability. The "guerrilla" approach to keeping the journal alive most often faced difficulties in securing funds for translations into Macedonian and English. Fortunately, since 2019 the Ministry of Culture has recognized *EthnoAnthropoZoom* as a project of national relevance, supporting its annual publication within the National Program for Literature and Publishing, thus reducing the financial burden on the Editorial Board.

Since its founding, *EthnoAnthropoZoom* has published all contributions in full in both Macedonian and English, increasing readability, international visibility, and citation potential. In addition to print and PDF versions, the journal has also developed initiatives for audio accessibility, broadening access to audiences who prefer listening over reading.

From 2000 to 2015, the Editor-in-Chief was Prof. Aneta Svetieva, with Dr. Ljupcho S. Risteski serving as editor and managing executive. Since 2015, Prof. Risteski has taken on the role of Editor-in-Chief, and Dr. Ines Crvenkovska Risteska serves as editor and managing executive. The Editorial Board includes colleagues from the Institute: Dr. Ljupcho S. Risteski, Dr. Mirjana Mirchevska, Dr. Ilina Jakimovska, Dr. Davorin Trpeski, and Dr. Ana Ashtalkovska Gajtanovska.

Distinguished colleagues from the region, Europe, and North America continuously participate in the broader editorial and/or international advisory board, including: Prof. Bojan Žikić (Belgrade), Prof. Mirjam Mencej (Ljubljana), Prof. Victor De Munck (New York), Prof. Ilka Thiessen (Vancouver), and Dr. Ines Prica (IEF, Zagreb). These compositions and changes are verified through the impressum pages and the official journal website.

The long-standing Macedonian-language proofreader is Prof. Natalija Andrijevska.

EthnoAnthropoZoom is indexed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ, CC BY-NC-SA license), listed in the European ERIH PLUS index, included in the Central and Eastern European Online Library (CEEOL), and registered in Crossref. These in-

dicators confirm editorial discipline, open access, persistent identification, and international visibility.

Analysis of the archived issues shows continuous annual volumes with a stable publication rhythm, parallel Macedonian/English sections, and accessible PDF formats. All issues demonstrate consistent use of DOI numbers, updated metadata, and a clearly structured impressum (ISSN, UDC, publisher, contacts). Besides research articles, the genre structure includes reviews (books/monographs), reports (conferences/projects), "ethnography/field" sections, and *in memoriam* contributions.

Content Analysis: Clusters, Examples, and Trends (2000–2025)

The content analysis below is based on a review of all articles published in the journal. The thematic clusters are analytical—they aim to describe shifts in scholarly interests across decades rather than exhaustively catalogue all topics.

In the early years, the journal was dominated by contributions on *traditional cultural heritage, rituality, material culture, and local cultural forms*. These topics represent the disciplinary foundation and remain present throughout later decades within a broader thematic spectrum.

From the mid-2010s onward, the journal strengthened its focus on identity (local/national/regional narratives), urban public space, migration, and social inequalities (gender, labour, marginalized economies), including social constructions of gender and sexuality. These contributions are often comparative (Macedonia–Greece–Slovenia–Serbia, occasionally Turkey and parts of Eastern Europe), enhancing the regional interconnectedness and analytical breadth of the journal.

In the past decade, contributions on memory politics, commemorations, and experiences of socialism and postsocialism stand out (films, literature, public memory sites, urban transformations). This thematic cluster bridges historical studies with contemporary anthropology, treating narratives of the past as living resources of the present.

Several thematic issues explore solidarity—ranging from urban care policies to cultural practices and activism. The cluster examines solidarity interdisciplinarily (social policy, public space, art/activism) through ethnographic and anthropological methodology.

The journal continuously features contributions that critically address methodological aspects of anthropological research, with substantial reflexivity and auto-reflexivity, giving the journal a distinct academic character.

There is a notable increase in contributions on visual policies, anthropological film, and cultural industries (including gendered/performative issues). This cluster is visibly marked in the journal's quantitative content analysis.

Conclusion

The twenty-five-year publishing trajectory of *EthnoAnthropoZoom* demonstrates institutional maturity, editorial discipline, and an ability to adapt methodologically and thematically. Its bilingual character (Macedonian/English), open-access policy, and the development of audio formats up to issue 17 (2018) position the journal as an inclusive

platform connecting local scholarly corpora with the international research community, expanding channels of knowledge dissemination to diverse readerships and listeners. Indexing in DOAJ, ERIH PLUS, CEEOL, and Crossref further consolidates visibility, persistence, and recognition within the European and broader academic ecosystem.

Content dynamics show a clear shift from canonical ethnological cores—traditional culture, rituality, and material culture—toward problem-oriented research of public relevance: identities, social inequalities and migrations, memory politics, socialism and postsocialism, solidarities and urban care regimes, methodological and autoethnographic interventions, and visual/film and cultural-industry studies. This spectrum is accompanied by a gradual integration of digital practices (standardized metadata, DOI, open PDF archives), preparing field-based expertise for the contemporary demands of the digital humanities.

The journal's historical context—including periods of financial vulnerability—makes its continuity even more meaningful: the Editorial Board has demonstrated the capacity for "maintenance under pressure," with institutional support from 2019 onward stabilizing the publishing routine and the translation/editorial infrastructure. This stability is not merely administrative—it enables a strong peer-review network, terminological consistency, and long-term international cooperation.

Looking ahead, several priorities stand out: consolidating the digital publishing architecture through full machine readability (XML/JATS), open identifiers for audio/multimedia, and expanded analytics (altmetrics); continued terminological harmonization and bilingual editing as prerequisites for precise transnational conceptual exchange; developing thematic dossiers linking local studies with global debates (e.g., postsocialism and inequalities, anthropology of digital labour, ecology and cultural policies); and institutionalizing the audio line beyond 2018 with a stable repository and persistent identifiers.

In this sense, *EthnoAnthropoZoom* is not only a chronicle of the disciplines but also an active mediator—between field and archive, local and global, research and public policy. Entering its third decade, its success will be measured not only by the number of published articles but also by the dialogue it fosters, the methodological transparency it demands, and the social relevance it delivers. With this ambition, the journal remains a key infrastructural pillar of the ethnological and anthropological community in Macedonia and a reference point within regional and European scholarly networks.