



# IN HONOR OF PROFESSOR ĐORĐE TASIĆ: LIFE, WORKS AND ECHOES

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*IN HONOR OF PROFESSOR ĐORĐE TASIĆ: LIFE, WORKS AND ECHOES*

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## FOREWORD

### IN HONOR OF PROFESSOR ĐORĐE TASIĆ: LIFE, WORKS AND ECHOES

The aim of this book is to preserve the memory of prof. dr. Đorđe Tasić, who, even today, has an immeasurably great importance and influence on the development of our social and scientific thought. With over six hundred published bibliographic units, prof. Tasić undoubtedly represents one of the leading Serbian intellectuals in the period between the two world wars.

During the 2022/23 is 130 years since his birth and eighty years since his tragic death. He was born on October 7, 1892 in Vranje and was killed by the fascist occupiers, most likely on August 26, 1943 in one of the occupation camps in Belgrade. There aren't many reliable clues about his fate, which is somewhat strange considering the meticulousness with which the German occupation authorities kept records of their crimes. There are several guesses as to when this happened, we will leave it to historians to determine the details.

Đorđe Tasić was an educated lawyer, full professor at Law Faculty on Belgrade University and one of its deans. During his lifetime, he was considered one of the leading Serbian intellectuals of his time. He was a man of wide range of interests and left a significant mark on our science and culture. His bibliography has over six hundred titles. In his rich opus, he did not only explore legal topics, but also topics related to the political system, history, philosophy of law, economics and, of course, sociological topics.

For us, as editors of this monograph, Đorđe Tasić is significant as one of the founders of sociology in Serbia and Yugoslavia. He was not only the author of notable sociological studies, but also the founder of the *Society for Sociology and Social Sciences* (1938-1941) and the initiator and editor of the collection *Sociološki pregled* (1938), which in the post-war years became a prestigious scientific journal and which, even today after eight decades, is still published regularly in Serbian and English and successfully represents our contemporary sociological thought in our country and abroad. For this reason, we cannot but agree that the appearance of this collection is the peak of the development of domestic sociology between the two world wars and the foundation on which it was built in the post-war period (Antonić, 2018, p. 15). In addition, we note that few countries, with a serious tradition of developing sociology, can boast of having a sociological journal that has been actively existing for eight and a half decades.

The sociological ideas presented in Tasić's collection were ahead of their time, and they have preserved their relevance even today, eighty-five years later. Sociology already then paved the way towards interdisciplinary study of society and establishing connections with other, not only social, sciences. Today, the question whether we can deal with any social science and remain exclusively in its field is already being asked. Of course, the answer would hardly be positive. Every science has its own angle of observation and it is insufficient to develop an insight into the whole of a phenomenon.

The first thematic unit of the *Sociološki pregled / Sociological Review* was entitled "Sociology and social sciences" and dealt with the question of the relationship of sociology to philosophy, history, ethnology, economy in general and political economy, law, but also sciences that come out of a purely social-scientific framework, such as psychology, biology, statistics, ecology. This brought sociology into the context of social sciences as a general and synthetic science. It was seen as a unique but still fragmented science. The only problem in internal classification was that it was not always possible, due to its complexity, to draw a clear line between general and special sociology. The very fact that special sociologies were discussed indicates that, at that time, sociology, although a relatively young science, already had a significant tradition in the Yugoslav and Serbian areas.

Prof. Đorđe Tasić was a close associate and close friend of many great men of his time. This becomes obvious, at least when it comes to his contribution to the foundation and development of sociology, by simply looking at the contents of the first volume of the *Sociološki pregled / Sociological Review*, i.e. the list of authors who published their works in the first volume of the *Sociološki pregled / Sociological Review*. The really eminent names of the time are there. It is enough to mention only Slobodan Jovanović, Jovan Đorđević and Branislav Nedeljković to understand the intellectual and scientific format of the gathered authors. Tasić himself had five articles in the *Sociološki pregled / Sociological Review*:

- Philosophy and sociology;
- Sociology and action;
- General overview of our sociology and our social sciences;
- About Belgian sociology and the publications of the Soloway Institute of Sociology and
- About the sociological congresses during 1937 in Paris.

This list shows the broadness of Tasić's sociological interests and the extent of his contribution to preserve the beginnings of sociology as a science in our region.

Đorđe Tasić was an assistant to one of the greatest Serbian intellectuals, the famous professor Slobodan Jovanović. Tasić's assistant, direct successor in the professorial position at the Faculty of Law, was Radomir Lukić, who today can be considered one of the

most significant founders of sociology as a scientific discipline and subject at Yugoslav and Serbian universities after the Second World War.

Given that contemporary sociology in Serbia, to a significant extent, represents the heritage of Prof. Đorđe Tasić, the *Serbian Sociological Society* launched an initiative to remind the scientific, professional and cultural public of the life and work of this great intellectual and professor, erudite and encyclopedic scientist and, what is particularly important for us, the institutional founder of sociology as a science. The *Society for Sociology and Social Sciences* and the *Sociološki pregled / Sociological Review* are still present in the intellectual and cultural space of Serbia. Society under the name *Serbian Sociological Association* and is active in publishing the *Sociološki pregled / Sociological Review*, whose inspiration was precisely prof. Tasić, a journal that has been raised to the level of an international journal, but is also active in organizing scientific meetings, publishing scientific monographs and thematic collections, and conducting sociological research. It is a regular member of the *European Sociological Association* (ESA) and the *International Sociological Association* (ISA), so it is an equal part of the world sociological community.

Editors

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Antonić, S. Č. (2018). The foundation of *Sociološki pregled/ Sociological Review* in 1938. *Sociološki pregled* 52(1), 7-23. DOI: 10.5937/socpreg52-17319