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INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
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(ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL
SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE)

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



Silver Lake, Veliko Gradište, 5–6 September 2025

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS*

FORUM FOR RELIGIOUS ISSUES
OF THE INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
**CHALLENGES FACING RELIGION AND THE CHURCH
IN POSTMODERN DIGITAL SOCIETY**

(Silver Lake, Veliko Gradište, Serbia)

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The Forum for Religious Issues and Centre for Sociological and Anthropological Research of the Institute of Social Sciences, Belgrade in co-organization with the Center for Empirical Research of Religion, Novi Sad.

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Slavoljub Vujović; Sara Stanić-Jovanović

Institute of Social Science
Belgrade, Serbia

Milorad Šolević

Faculty of Business and Management
Belgrade, Serbia

POSSIBILITIES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE LIGHT OF SPIRITUAL VALUES

A pressing planetary problem – the cause of socio-economic inequalities, the issue of distribution and redistribution of newly created value has accompanied the economy since its inception, reaching large proportions in the 21st century, especially in the developed countries where the world's financial and political centers of power are located.

The question is, what impact did the greatest (or, one of the greatest) civilizational breakthroughs have on this problem – the meeting of Jews and Greeks in ancient times? The direct proportion of economic inequalities and the control of capital by large corporations, raises the question: has the technical and technological progress throughout the twentieth century led to economic progress, or has it led to the creation of inequality?

Practice sees the state as the culprit, in the sense that the state does not function properly, allowing individuals to steal from others and create enormous wealth.

Does the use of the state by corporations open the door to Malthusian theory – the need for wars and natural disasters in the interests of big capital?

Inequalities as a consequence of corruption, or the non-functioning of the state, are the antithesis of the need and guidelines for the functioning of the state, explains Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

Spiritual development, according to the teachings of the Russian Orthodox Church (T. Shevkunov), takes human dignity as the basic, starting value of the overall development of society, as a value prerequisite for all other values, which is not the case with economic development.

Key words: world, spiritual values, economic development, dignity

The Forum for Religious Issues (FOREL) is a research group at the Institute of Social Sciences that explores contemporary religion from an interdisciplinary perspective by bringing together researchers from the Institute of Social Sciences and external scholars from the fields of sociology, philosophy, anthropology, political and legal studies. The Forum informs the scientific and general public about its findings based on research evidence, and organizes international scientific meetings, conferences, roundtables, and panel discussions.

Center for Sociological and Anthropological Research specializes in the fields of sociology, gender studies, sociology of religion, political sociology, and political anthropology. The Center has a long tradition of research in the sociology of religion and religious studies, focusing on religion in post-conflict and post-transitional societies, secularization and desecularization, religious identity, and religious organizations.



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