

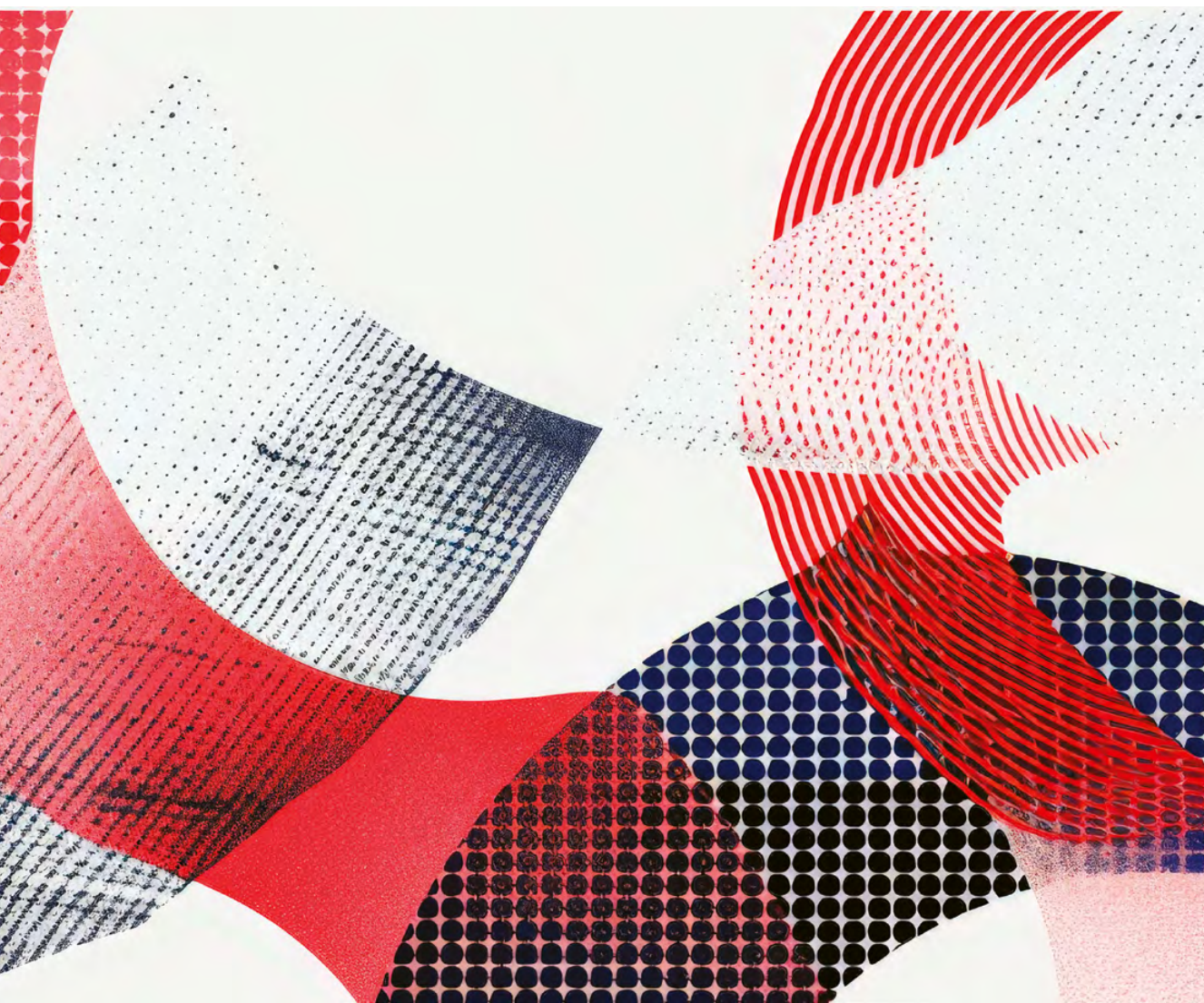
INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

GENDER EQUALITY IN THE POST-YUGOSLAV SPACE:

Challenges, Policies, and Perspectives

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GENDER EQUALITY IN THE POST-YUGOSLAV SPACE:
CHALLENGES, POLICIES AND PERSPECTIVES

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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Ivana Magdalenic *

GENDER EQUALITY IN SERBIA'S POPULATION POLICY – CHALLENGES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The current public discourse on demographic issues in Serbia highlights the need to redefine the institutional responses to population challenges through an integrated and cross-sectoral approach.

These tendencies have motivated the aim of this study, namely, to examine the position of gender equality in the state's only strategic response to low fertility, and identify directions for its integration into Serbia's family policy.

Analysis of the Strategy for Promoting Childbearing indicates that gender equality is not defined as a separate objective, but is embedded within goals such as reconciling work and parenthood and reducing the psychological costs of parenting. At the same time, objectives related to preserving and improving reproductive health, addressing infertility, and promoting healthy motherhood, offer potential for mitigating gender inequalities.

The paper proceeds from the assumption that, to some extent, gender inequalities in both the private and public spheres influence parental aspirations. Accordingly, the study proposes that implementing a gender-sensitive approach in family policy has the potential to reduce the gap between the desired and actual number of children.

Within this analytical framework, we identify several avenues for enhancing family policy, including integrating gender equality as a distinct strategic goal, formulation and implementation of measures that enable the simultaneous participation of both parents in early childcare, development of gender-sensitive policies for early childhood, and improvement of indicators that monitor gender aspects of family policy.

We consider that the goal of family policy should be to improve the quality of life and promote gender equality, recognizing that this

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approach has the potential for the fulfilment of both professional and parental aspirations.

Keywords: Gender equality, Serbia, family policy, gender-sensitive approach, quality of life