

## Editorial

The year 2024 has been an intense one at STSS. The most important and shocking news is the passing away of our co-editor in chief, Professor Ellu Saar. Ellu served as a Professor of Sociology at the School of Governance, Law and Society (SOGOLAS) at Tallinn University since 2001 and was Senior Researcher at the IISS. She had been awarded the Estonian Research Prize in Social Sciences, and in 2022, was elected a member of the Estonian Academy of Sciences. Since 2012, she was elected as editor-in-chief of the sociological section of STSS and guided a number of authors to publish with us, importantly stirring sociological debates in Estonia and beyond. From 2015 to 2021, she was the head of the sociology programmes at TLU SOGOLAS, and from 2016 to 2023, she led the Centre of Excellence in Life Course Studies at TLU. It is with great sadness that we received the news on 2 June 2024. An obituary has been included at the end of this issue.

The year also saw a changing of the guards with regard to book review editors. After almost 3 years of support and help, our current editors Dr Phill Wilcox and Dr Leila Chamankhah have decided to focus on other projects and have helped the transition with two new editors that have been selected: Dr Enkhchimeg Enkhmandakh, PhD from Kyoto University, and Dr Joel Outtes, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

This year we also moved from two to only one issue per year, which is why the current issue is longer than usual, featuring five papers and four book reviews. The first paper, “Unpacking the Underpinnings of Collaborative Consumption in Central Asia: Perspectives from Kyrgyzstan” by Rodica Ianole-Călin, Elena Druica, Aichurok Ybyraimova and Anca Bratu (2024) investigates the motivation behind collaborative consumption in Kyrgyzstan by applying the theory of planned behaviour. Their results reveal that attitude, perceived behavioural control, and subjective norms are the most influential predictors, with their impact ranked in descending order. The next article “Politics of Corruption in Albanian Higher Education” by Arjan Shahini, Edvin Zhllima and Drini Imami (2024) examines the persistent issue of corruption in Albania. Emphasising the significant impact of political influence on student evaluations, the article draws on survey results to address the issue. It suggests that this influence stems from historical factors and current political dynamics. In addition, the paper delves into the exploitation of anti-corruption rhetoric in higher education as a tool for political control, and discusses the considerable challenges which anticorruption campaigns face due to political interference and institutional resistance. Further, the article “Positioning Post-Soviet Sociology in Global Sociology: Between the Global South and the Global North” by Kseniia Cherniak and Artem Lytovchenko (2024) contends that so-called ‘global sociology’ is quite some way from being actually global, as it only involves specific regions and communities in the discussion. Indeed, the voices of other regions, as a rule, are not heard in the established system of connections and positions, and the regions themselves act as passive objects of (re)positioning, which is determined by the needs of specific research carried out by the nominally ‘global’ community of sociologists. Subsequently, they set out to position one of the excluded communities – post-Soviet sociology – in global sociology using the North-South analytical framework that is frequently applied in discussions of global academic inequalities. The fourth article “Empirical View of Local Residents’ Perceptions Towards E-Government in Kyrgyzstan” by Azamat Maksüdünov (2024) evaluates residents’ perceptions of e-government services in Kyrgyzstan thanks to data collection through a structured questionnaire to 325 residents. The last article “Student Housing Choices and Aspirations: Private Renting or Ownership? The Case of Tallinn in Post-socialist Estonia” by Liis Ojamäe and Katrin Paadam (2024) analyses how students make sense of their experiences in private rentals, which is assumed to shape their dispositions and capacities to act in the housing market in the future. It contributes to the conceptualisation of young people’s housing choices and aspirations by offering evidence from the understudied post-socialist context of Tallinn, Estonia.

The book review section in this issue features four interesting books. “Inhuman Power: Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Capitalism” by Sanja Petkovska (2024); “Shopping with Allah: Muslim Pilgrimage, Gender, and Consumption in a Globalized World” by Fakhreeh Moussavi (2024); “Recognising the Survival of Marginal Lives Nearby Bengal Borderlands” by Nasrin Siraj and finally “The Opium Business: A History of Crime and Capitalism in Maritime China” by Suvi Rautio (2024).

## Bibliography

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