Department of Sociology of Borderland of the Institute of Sociology, University of Wrocław

and

The Section of the Sociology of Ethnicity of the Polish Sociological Association

The Wrocław Branch of the Polish Sociological Association

invite to participate in the international scientific conference

**”POLISH NEIGHBOURHOODS – SLOVAKIA”**

to be held **1–2.12.2016** in Wrocław.

Although neighbourhoods are a temporal phenomenon, one cannot but note that they set the social reality in order. Neighbours may not always be noticeable, yet they always are bearers of some emotional load. According to Richard Grathoff, ”neighbours manifest themselves in a peculiar situation of intersubjectivity as the closest Others beyond the scope of the milieu. They delimit the milieu’s borders and borderlands”. Bearing in mind the vast material concerning the Polish borderlands—these bridges between the states and societies—that the social scientists have succeeded to gather, one can assume that the thought over bigger phenomena, i.e. neighbourhoods, will turn out to be no less interesting and fruitful.

Such an approach to the problem encourages the reflection over the question about the ways the particular Polish neighbourhoods are practised. This can be achieved by means of a series of international conferences, organised by the Institute of Sociology of Wrocław University, The Section of the Sociology of Ethnicity of the Polish Sociological Association and the Wrocław Branch of the Polish Sociological Association. We hope these meetings will cover Poland’s all neighbourhoods—so far we have managed to organise the sessions relating to the following ones: Polish-Lithuanian (2011), Polish-Czech (2012), Polish-Ukrainian (2014) and Polish-Russian (2015); the conferences were followed by relevant books (for more information see the publishing house’s website: www.gajt.com.pl).

We would like to direct the problems of the conference to a wide group of scientists, but also journalists as well as other experts and representatives of the institutions dealing with **the present, i.e. after 1989, face of the Polish-Slovak neighbourhood as seen through the prism of the social issues**. Our ambition is to gather these people—Poles, Slovaks and the representatives of other nations—at the same time and site so that they could present their papers and exchange opinions. **Following the example of previous meetings we will do our best to close each of the conference’s sessions with in-depth discussions over the presented papers.** We plan to publish a collection of articles on the Polish-Slovak neighbourhood.

The organisers suggest that the papers presented relate to the questions that for the last 25 years have shaped a social face of the Polish-Slovak neighbourhood. These may include:

- social problems in the Polish-Slovak transborderland;

- a social dimension of the Polish-Slovak cooperation;

- the Poles’ situation in Slovakia and the Slovaks’ situation in Poland;

- Poland’s and Poles’ image in Slovakia as well as Slovakia’s and Slovaks’ image in Poland;

- the Polish-Slovak neighbourhood and the idea of Central Europe;

- the Polish plots in the Slovak (and the Slovak plots in the Polish) literature, art and film;

- the platforms of the mutual interest between Poles and Slovaks;

Conference organisers: Julita Makaro, PhD Hab., Marcin Dębicki, PhD

Conference’s Secretary: Kamilla Dolińska, PhD

Operating languages: Polish, English

Conference fee is **350 PLN** **(75–80 EUR**,depending on the exchange rate) or **250 PLN (55–60 EUR**) for PhD students, and it includes: lunch (1st and 2nd December), drinks during the conference, a guided evening walk about Wrocław or a visit at the Museum of the Wrocław University (1st December). We plan to release the volume of the reviewed articles. The organisers are not instrumental in the obtention of accommodation.

The titles of the papers and abstracts (up to 1000 signs) need to be sent by **15th October 2016** to:

Instytut Socjologii Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego, ul. Koszarowa 3, 51-149 Wrocław

or by e-mail at: sasiedztwa@wp.pl

We will let you know about the acceptance of the paper by 2**0th October 2016.** Application forms and other information about the conference can be found at <http://www.socjologia.uni.wroc.pl>.

The conference fee should be directed to the bank account:

Wydział Nauk Społecznych Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego

ul. Koszarowa 3, 51-149 Wrocław

**in PLN** – BZ WBK S.A. 4 O/Wrocław, ul. Kuźnicza 17/19, 50-950 Wrocław

no.: 09 1090 2503 0000 0001 1110 6022

**in EUR** – BZ WBK S.A. 1 O/Wrocław, ul. Rynek 9/11

no.: 56 1090 2398 0000 0001 1108 0646

Swift: WBK PPL PP

**payment title**: „Sąsiedztwa – Słowacja”