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## EDITORIAL

Dear colleagues and readers,

we are beginning a new decade in the publication of the yearbook *Ethnologia Slovaca et Slavica*. We wish to continue the tradition of this anthology, whilst also reflecting in an innovative manner the social demands and academic criteria which provide the context for our work, as well as all the social circumstances which are subject to change. We will announce an annual thematic challenge, which you can find on our website, as well as in the printed version of the anthology. In this edition, as a result of this thematic specification, texts focusing on kinship and family have been prioritised.

This collection of papers provides a picture of the wide range of family and kinship issues and the ways in which they are dealt with by contemporary authors. There is a case study of a family museum as a shrine, kinship systems, relations and choices in an ethnically mixed environment, and an investigation on the retrospective image of the socially specific situation of women and the family. Family and relations within it have been and remain today an object of social evaluation, and often of tabloid news. Authentic folk material documents various historic contexts of many motifs which are still alive and maintained today. The family and family relations also live in their narrative forms which are documented by more recent field research.

The topic of family and kinship cannot be approached without mentioning the interviews and research of the first lady in family studies in Slovakia, Soňa Švecová. This text, the interviews and extracts from evaluative articles are dedicated by the editors to our esteemed colleague on the memorable occasion of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

News on new books and events concludes with a sad memory, the obituary of our cherished, supportive and ever-helpful member of the ESeS editorial board, the late professor Martin Slobodník.

*Marta Botiková*