Preface

This issue of the journal includes studies in urban sociology, family and social exclusion, the Internet and national identity, and work humanisation. Urban sociology takes the largest part of the journal. The articles on contemporary Lithuanian cities were written during the research project “Social Exclusion in Lithuanian Cities: Forms of Spatial Segregation and Polarisation” supported by the Research Council of Lithuania (project no. MIP-112/2011).

In their article “Emotions and Socio-Spatial Segregation in Lithuanian Cities: Am I Powerful Enough to Influence Change?”, Artūras Tereškinas and Apolonijus Žilys focus on emotions arising from the use of given urban spaces and affective investments that lie in the physical space of three Lithuanian cities, Vilnius, Kaunas and Klaipėda. Using the quantitative data (a survey conducted within the research project “Social Exclusion in Lithuanian Cities: Forms of Spatial Segregation and Polarisation” (2012), the article analyses the structures of feeling of power/powerlessness that people attach to different neighbourhoods in these cities.

In her articles, Ilona Tamutienė explores the social harm of alcohol. In her first article entitled “Experiences of the Elimination of Alcohol Related Social Harm in the Neighbourhoods of Lithuanian Cities,” she analyses the links between alcohol outlet density, its consumption in public spaces and social harm. Her second article “Relationship Between Alcohol Outlet Density, Public Alcohol Consumption and Social Harm” examines experiences of the elimination of alcohol related social harm and evaluates the impact of alcohol related social harm on the construction of social exclusion in the neighbourhoods of Vilnius, Kaunas and Klaipėda.

Apolonijus Žilys’s “Residential Differentiation in Lithuanian Modern Cities: Is It a (Post)Soviet or Western City?”, the last article devoted to urban sociology, focuses on residential differentiation in contemporary Lithuanian cities. The author argues that although residential differences exist among different areas of the post-socialist cities, a severe segregation found in Western cities is absent in Lithuania.

In her article “Reconstitution of Partnership after the Divorce: Trends and Social Differentiation,” Aušra Maslauskaitė analyses the trends of partnership reconstitution after the divorce and social differentiation of this process in Lithuania. The research is based on the pooled dataset of the two waves of Generation and Gender Survey (2006 and 2009) and is limited to the analysis of
the subpopulation of divorced females with the underage children. The research results demonstrate that the level of repartnering of Lithuanian females is relatively low compared to that of males and females in other countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Moreover, repartnering as a strategy to overcome negative economic outcomes of divorce is not equally accessible to all divorced females in Lithuanian society. Those who occupy the economically most vulnerable positions, i.e., divorced women with children, have the most limited chances.

In her article “(W2.0) Public Sphere: Chinese Discourse in Lithuanian Users’ Generated Content,” Alina Žvinklienė argues that Lithuanian orientalism appears mainly as sinophobia unrelated to the actual number of Chinese settlers in Lithuania. According to her, by actualizing Chinese “invasion” in Lithuania, the mass media provoke the publicity of sinophobic sentiments.

The last article of this issue focuses on the research project “Personal and Organizational Value Congruence in the Organizations of Lithuania“ with regard to A. Maslow’s hierarchy of needs. In their article “Conceptual Validity of Hierarchy of Needs in the National Context of Value Congruence,” Jolita Vveinhardt and Evelina Gulbovaitė demonstrate that Lithuanian employees’ values are located in the same hierarchy developed by A. Maslow.