

Preface

This issue of the journal covers the issues of persons with physical disability, the relation between mass media and political participation, post-Soviet youth's attitudes towards democracy, politics and the Soviet past, the role of non-governmental organizations in the welfare state and life-story approach in researching homelessness.

In her article "Does Mass Media Influence Political Participation in Lithuania?" Jūratė Imbrasaitė focuses on the relation between the use of traditional mass media and the Internet on political participation. Drawing on the surveys conducted in Lithuania in 2005 and 2010, the author concludes that the Lithuanian citizens' political knowledge is largely related to their interest in criminal news, gender and education.

Eglė Tuzaitė analyzes the youth's attitudes to democracy, themselves as Lithuanian citizens, and politics. In her article "Critical Citizens"? Post-Soviet Youth's Attitudes towards Democracy, Politics and Soviet Past," she argues that attributing the problems of democracy to the Soviet past young people are critical of the current political situation in the country. However, they are also hopeful about the future of Lithuania because of their trust in the powers of a new generation.

In her article "The Third Sector and Social Welfare: the Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in the Welfare State," Jurgita Vorevičienė described the retarded development of the third sector in Lithuania. Despite this developmental retardation, according to her, the current social processes in the country demonstrate that the Lithuanian NGO sector might become more active and include more diverse social groups in the future.

Jolita Viluckienė's article "Time Lived with Disability" focuses on the disabled people's perceptions of time. In the author's view, the nature of their disability (congenital or acquired later) and social isolation/re-socialization are most influential in forming different understandings of the past, present and future among people with disabilities.

By using the case of homelessness, in her article "Using a Life-story Approach in Researching Homelessness," Rasa Indriliūnaitė examines

specificities of a life-story approach in sociological research. This issue of the journal also includes Sima Rakutienė's review of Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn's book "Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide" translated into the Lithuanian language in 2015.

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