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FOREWORD

In a world marked by rapid transformation, technological disruption, geopolitical uncertainty, and profound social reconfiguration, the social sciences have become more essential than ever. They provide the conceptual tools and empirical insight needed to understand how societies change, how institutions respond, how individuals adapt, and how collective futures may be shaped more thoughtfully and more justly. Guided by the idea of **Interdisciplinary Social Science Research for Sustainable and Resilient Societies**, the present edition of the **Social Sciences Conference Proceedings ISCSS 2025** brings together an extensive and intellectually diverse body of research dedicated to some of the most urgent questions of contemporary public, social, economic, educational, and cultural life.

This volume demonstrates not only the thematic breadth of the social sciences, but also their remarkable capacity to connect disciplines, methodologies, and regional perspectives. The collection moves across **Political Science, Law, and Digital Governance Studies; Economics, Finance, Sustainability, and Digital Innovation Studies; Psychology and Psychiatry; Sociology, Social Work, and Digital Societies; Education and Digital Learning Innovations; Cultural Studies and Globalization; and Healthcare, Public Health, and Societal Transformation**. Together, these contributions reveal a field that is at once analytically rigorous, socially engaged, and deeply responsive to the evolving realities of the present.

The opening section, **Political Science, Law, and Digital Governance Studies**, addresses the changing foundations of governance, legality, ethics, and public order in a digitized and conflict-prone world. Topics such as artificial intelligence and information warfare, digital trust, digital assets, research integrity, territorial administration, legal principles, state security, and workplace responsibility show how political and legal inquiry increasingly intersects with technology, risk, and institutional resilience. These studies remind us that governance today is inseparable from digital transformation, ethical accountability, and the continuous rethinking of public responsibility.

In **Economics, Finance, Sustainability, and Digital Innovation Studies**, the volume turns to the economic and managerial dimensions of a rapidly changing world. The contributions range from eye-tracking in recruitment, central bank digital currencies, trade margins, and housing availability to ESG reporting, sustainability accounting, tourism, globalization, innovation management, and demographic-economic change. Particularly notable is the way this section links economic reasoning with broader questions of sustainability, technology, consumer behavior, and social responsibility, demonstrating that contemporary economic inquiry must increasingly address both efficiency and long-term human and environmental consequences.

The section on **Psychology and Psychiatry** foregrounds the inner dimensions of social life: emotion, cognition, perception, identity, trauma, autonomy, and human behavior. Here, the reader encounters studies on abusive control in relationships, moral resistance, consumer psychology, coping and autonomy among teachers, neural dynamics of concealment, aesthetic experience, self-esteem and employment, academic dropout, and metaphor in biblical anthropology. These contributions demonstrate that psychological

research remains central not only to understanding individual well-being, but also to explaining broader patterns of social interaction, motivation, and vulnerability.

In **Sociology, Social Work, and Digital Societies**, the proceedings reveal a particularly strong engagement with the realities of community life, social inequality, institutional care, resilience, media environments, public participation, youth, disability, sustainability communication, and the social consequences of digital transformation. From adolescent risk perceptions and AI-generated fake news to refugee adaptation, rural tourism, school discrimination, and urban community development, the studies in this section show how social research today must move fluently between local lived realities and large systemic change. They also demonstrate the continuing importance of social work and sociology as disciplines of responsibility, care, and practical intervention.

The section **Education and Digital Learning Innovations** offers one of the most dynamic and forward-looking parts of the volume. The contributions explore cultural sustainability in bilingual families, ecological competence, character education, interdisciplinary teaching, digital competencies, reskilling, educational leadership, inquiry-based learning, artificial intelligence in education, school counseling, virtual learning environments, and post-pandemic teaching styles. Together, these studies reveal education not as a static institutional field, but as an adaptive and transformative space in which technology, pedagogy, ethics, and inclusion must be continuously rebalanced.

In **Cultural Studies and Globalization**, the volume reflects on the movement of identities, labor, heritage, cities, and values in an increasingly interconnected world. The papers address cinema, gastronomic heritage, labor mobility, remittances, diaspora, and cosmopolitanism, illuminating the many ways in which globalization reshapes both cultural memory and social belonging. These contributions enrich the volume by showing that global processes are never purely economic or political; they are equally cultural, symbolic, and deeply human.

The concluding section, **Healthcare, Public Health, and Societal Transformation**, extends the volume's interdisciplinary horizon even further. Research on radiology technologies, AI and robots in medical care, medical image analysis, athletes' training conditions, public health behavior, adolescent reproductive health, and virtual reality in medicine reveals the profound connections between healthcare systems, technological innovation, and broader social transformation. This section shows that health today can no longer be understood in isolation from digital tools, public behavior, aging, education, and the wider structures of society.

Another notable strength of this volume lies in its broad international scope, reflected in author affiliations spanning 28 countries, including Armenia, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Finland, Georgia, Hong Kong, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States. **This diversity enriches the proceedings substantially, bringing into dialogue different scholarly traditions**, national experiences, institutional frameworks, and social realities. It is precisely through such diversity that the social sciences gain greater explanatory power and broader human relevance.

Taken as a whole, the present proceedings testify to the vitality of the social sciences as disciplines of interpretation, diagnosis, critique, and solution-oriented inquiry. They show that social science research today is not confined to abstract theory alone, but is deeply engaged with the challenges of governance, sustainability, digitalization, education, well-being, social cohesion, and cultural transformation. Across all sections, one senses a common intellectual commitment: to connect knowledge with responsibility, research with public relevance, and scholarly rigor with the practical needs of contemporary society.

This volume also reflects the broader vision of the **SWS International Scientific Conference on Social Sciences**: to sustain an international platform where scholars from diverse disciplines and cultural contexts may meet in productive dialogue. Such dialogue is indispensable in our time. The complexity of today's world demands not isolated perspectives, but interdisciplinary understanding; not fragmentation, but connection; not superficial reaction, but careful analysis grounded in evidence, ethics, and human dignity.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all authors, reviewers, editors, and organizers whose dedication, expertise, and academic integrity made this publication possible. Their work has helped shape a volume that does more than collect research: it contributes to an ongoing international conversation about society, responsibility, and the future.

May this book inspire further scholarship, deeper reflection, and new collaborations across disciplines, institutions, and regions.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. habil. art. OJARS SPĀRĪTIS

Editor-in-Chief

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