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Ban Dvor
ČASOPIS ZA DRUŠTVENE
I HUMANISTIČKE ZNANOSTI

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Uvodnik

dr. sc. Ivan Mance
https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8663-9742
Udruga Ban Dvor, Oroslavje, Republika Hrvatska — info@bandvor.hr
prof. dr. sc. Ante Bežen
Učiteljski fakultet Sveučilišta u Zagrebu, Zagreb, Republika Hrvatska
prof. dr. sc. Josip Jurčević
Fakultet hrvatskih studija Sveučilišta u Zagrebu, Zagreb, Republika Hrvatska

Uvod: Poštovani čitatelji, slobodni znanstvenici i istraživači, pred Vama, na zaslonu računala, prvi je broj elektroničkog znanstveno-stručnog časopisa Ban Dvor, namijenjenog objavljivanju tekstova iz područja društvenih i humanističkih znanosti. Izdaje ga istoimena udruga sa sjedištem u Oroslavju pokraj Zagreba, osnovana 2025. godine, registrirana i za izdavačku djelatnost. Udrugu i časopis podupire širi krug entuzijasta za promicanje neovisnih istraživanja društvenih i humanističkih tema, među kojima je i više sveučilišnih profesora.

Ključne riječi: Ban Dvor, znanstveno-stručni časopis, uvodnik, neovisna istraživanja

Editorial

Introduction: Dear readers, independent scholars, and researchers, before you, on your computer screens, is the first issue of Ban Dvor, an electronic scholarly and professional journal intended for the publication of texts in the fields of the social sciences and humanities. It is published by the eponymous association, based in Oroslavje near Zagreb, which was established in 2025 and is registered to carry out publishing activities. The association and the journal are supported by a wider circle of enthusiasts dedicated to promoting independent research into social-science and humanities topics, including several university professors.

Key words: Ban Dvor, scholarly and professional journal, editorial, independent research

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FOR A FREE SCIENCE

We are launching this journal in order to open a space for valuable scholarly texts that are not accepted by the established journals because they engage in so-called scholarly revisionism by questioning the "great" and "cemented" truths about historical and current social issues and topics. Science in Croatia, after all, is not always free. At Ban Dvor, however, we regard sound scholarly revisionism—whose sole aim is the discovery of objective truths supported by credible sources, evidence, and arguments—as, indeed, an indispensable ethical stance for every responsible scholar in the social sciences and humanities, provided that they have at heart the promotion of fundamental human values in shaping the present and building the future of Croatian society. We oppose the cancelling, rejection, and silencing invoked and carried out by undemocratic forces of totalitarian provenance, which protect "eternal" and agreed-upon "truths" that are, in fact, constructs and myths.

We are guided by the timeless thoughts of great figures from across the world and from Croatia:

Albert Einstein	*Unthinking respect for authority is the greatest enemy of truth.*
Richard Feynman	*Of all its many values, the greatest must be the freedom to doubt.*
Galileo Galilei	*In questions of science, the authority of a thousand is not worth the humble reasoning of a single individual.*
Ruđer Bošković	*No theory is above verification.*
Ante Starčević	*Political freedom is not complete without civil and intellectual freedom.*
Ivan Supek	*Who has the right to decide what a person may think, research, say, and create?*

Science must therefore be free precisely because we cannot know in advance what conclusion research will reach. This applies equally to the social sciences and humanities. In Croatia, scholarly freedom, freedom of artistic creation, and national freedom have always been closely linked in the mission of social growth and progress.

The journal welcomes texts that, in any way and at either a scholarly or professional level, question, problematise, and encourage discussion of any topic in Croatian society. Regardless of political, media, or other authorities, or of mainstream, left-wing, or right-wing approaches, we will support the publication of views and ideas that some call revisionist. We wish to be a place of reasoned dialogue on culture, language, identity, social and political processes, the culture of remembrance, and heritage. The objectivity and impartiality of scholarship, together with its constitutionally guaranteed independence, are the principal motives for

launching this journal. We particularly provide a forum for authors and for topics that have been denied public attention, chiefly for political, authoritarian, or other non-scholarly reasons, and for authors who have been unable to publish the results of their research for the same reasons. We will therefore also publish texts that have so far not been published in established journals because of negative reviews, where their authors consider that they were rejected for non-scholarly reasons. It is legitimate to ask whether such texts were truly rejected because they lack value or because they conflict with the views of their assessors, behind which lies an ideological or other non-scholarly background. These texts, like all others, will undergo peer review at *Ban Dvor*, and readers may make the final judgement as to their merit or lack thereof.

The *Ban Dvor Association* and journal take their name from a medieval site in the Kosinj area of Lika, now known as Mlakvena Greda, above the village of Mlakve. It is an exceptionally important, though largely still unexplored, archaeological site where a fortified hillfort complex existed as early as the Roman period and was taken over by the Croats after their settlement in this area. It is presumed to have served as the seat of Croatian bans in an earlier historical period. Most likely for that reason, the site acquired the name Ban Dvor; its surroundings also contain the toponyms Ban Stol, Banje Polje, and Banska Kamenica. This toponymic cluster constitutes a unique example in the historical and geographical area inhabited by Croats and bears witness to an early Croatian political and administrative tradition. The name was chosen because it carries strong historical symbolism for the values we follow, is original, and has not been exploited in the media.

The journal is entirely open to contributors and readers. Without any fee or subscription, they may download, share, and adapt published articles, provided that, in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence (CC BY 4.0), they respect copyright and cite *Ban Dvor* as the source of the article's first publication. Access to the journal is free of charge: no fees are charged for article submission, editorial processing, peer review, or publication, and the publisher derives no profit from issuing the journal.

If you share our starting points, send your texts to *Ban Dvor* at:

info@casopis.bandvor.hr

Editorial Board