

TRIDESET LET DELA INŠTITUTA ZA GEOGRAFIJO UNIVERZE - PRISPEVEK K RAZVOJU SLOVENSKE GEOGRAFIJE

Rado Genorio *

Trideset let delovanja Inštituta za geografijo Univerze v Ljubljani je dovolj pomemben jubilej, da njegovi sodelavci, skupaj s kolegi iz Slovenije in tujine, pretresemo stanje stroke na socialnogeografskem področju ter se tako dotaknemo aktualnih teoretskih in metodoloških izhodišč, kot tudi njihove aplikacije na problemih, ki smo jim v novejšem obdobju posvečali največ pozornosti. Sedanje družbene razmere pri nas in v svetu ter položaj socialne geografije v sistemu geografske znanosti nam narekujejo, da spričo najnovejših dinamičnih sprememb na svetovni ravni in dejstva, da je medtem v Sloveniji prišlo do osamosvojitve ter oblikovanja samostojne nacionalne države, izpostavimo probleme našega dosedanjega dela, kot tudi dileme bodoče naravnosti socialnogeografskih raziskovanj. Dosedanji rezultati naj osvetlijo pravilnost pa morda tudi napačno odzivanje stroke na raziskovanje socialnogeografskih problemov ter hkrati opredelijo smeri bodočega delovanja.

Temeljno izhodišče socialne geografije temelji na sprotnem proučevanju aktualnih prostorskih procesov, ki vedno znova spreminjajo prostorske strukture pokrajin oziroma delovanje skupin prebivalcev kot temeljnih nosilcev prostorskih funkcij. Omenjena paradigma je bila v geografiji

* Dr., dipl.geogr., direktor Inštituta za geografijo Univerze, 61000 Ljubljana, Trg francoske revolucije 7, SLO

dolgo časa zapostavljena. Vloga procesov pri geografskem proučevanju, skupaj z nosilci teh procesov, je pridobila na pomenu šele po drugi svetovni vojni spričo dinamičnih sprememb prostorskih struktur na globalni, regionalni in lokalni ravni. Prostorski procesi vsebujejo namreč široko paleto akcij, rezultat pa so vedno nove strukture oziroma spremembe regionalnih sistemov: prostorski procesi rušijo obstoječe strukture in oblikujejo nove. Ker gre za specifičen aspekt proučevanja prostora ali pokrajinske stvarnosti in je zaradi problemske naravnosti tudi dovolj afirmativen, so se dolgo časa pojavljale razprave o njegovem značaju in funkciji. Skoraj tri desetletja so se pojavljale tudi v slovenski geografiji. Pri tem pa je potrebno podčrtati, da je del slovenske geografije samo oplemenitil koncepcijo takoimenovane "münchensko-dunajske socialnogeografske šole" ter jo prilagodil geografski stvarnosti Slovenije in njenega razvoja.

Socialnogeografska koncepcija je uporabna pri obravnavanju različnih geografskih fenomenov, še posebej, če upoštevamo dejstvo, da je njen interes usmerjen v procese in njihove zakonitosti, ki učinkujejo prostorsko. Zaradi tega njeni zagovorniki večkrat izpostavljajo tezo, da se ukvarja z razlago prostorskih procesov v kulturni pokrajini. Sorazmerno zgodaj je dobila nekaj privrženecv tudi v slovenski geografiji. Dinamika spreminjanja slovenske pokrajine je v obdobju po drugi svetovni vojni in še posebej v zadnjih treh desetletjih postavljala nove zahteve po iskanju učinkovitih pristopov pri raziskovanju razmer v slovenskem prostoru. Nekateri so namenili večji poudarek procesom, drugi pa prostorskim strukturam. Sprejeta je bila kot nov način gledanja v geografiji in kot koncept pri obravnavanju specifičnih prostorskih problemov. Na drugi strani pa je pri delu slovenske geografije hiter prodor socialnogeografske koncepcije povzročal tudi nezaupanje in njenim nosilcem očital dezintegracijsko vlogo pri razvoju geografske znanosti. Ne glede na to pa lahko trdimo, da se je uveljavila ravno v tistem njenem bistvu, ki razlaga odnose med izrabo prostora in človekom.

Za razliko od klasičnega antropogeografskega, je socialnogeografska koncepcija usmerjena na proučevanje posameznih človekovih dejavnosti v prostoru, preko katerih človek oziroma socialne skupine prebivalstva

oblikujejo pokrajino. V ospredje postavlja skupine prebivalstva kot akterje v prostoru in kot nosilce razvoja prostorskih struktur. Navedena dejstva pa ne smejo zavajati geografov, češ da je socialna geografija v teoretičnem, metodološkem in aplikativnem pogledu udejanila vse svoje možnosti, ali pa naredila odločilen korak k oblikovanju sistemske teorije rabe prostora. Zagotovo je v tem pogledu pred nami še ogromno neizčrpanih možnosti in empiričnega preverjanja dosedanjih izhodišč proučevanja odnosov med človekom in izrabo prostora.

V čas utiranja poti tej novi koncepciji v slovenski geografiji, potem ko je bil že viden prehod iz funkcijske antropogeografije k socialni geografiji, je bil ustanovljen Inštitut za geografijo Univerze v Ljubljani. Zapolnil je vrzel v znanstveno-raziskovalnem delu slovenske geografije ter se lotil nalog, ki jih je narekovala tedanja stopnja razvoja slovenske geografske znanosti, ko se je na Slovenskem počasi že začela "odstirati takoimenovana železna zavesa" in ko je bilo s tem omogočeno postopno sprejemanje miselnih vzorcev iz zahodno in srednjeevropskega geografskega prostora. Pospešeni družbeni razvoj v času tridesetletnega dela Inštituta za geografijo je spremljalo nastajanje novih socialnogeografskih skupin prebivalstva, ki so v prostorsko-interakcijskem pogledu nenehno spreminjale slovensko pokrajino. Ob tem so se tudi sproti spreminjali okviri časovnega prostorskega razvoja. Brez sistematično zastavljenega raziskovalnega dela pa je težko dojemati te spremembe in dajati ustrezne vizije oziroma strategije nadaljnemu razvoju. Temu bistvu socialnogeografske misli se je skušal približevati novoustanovljeni inštitut, ki naj bi z znanstveno-raziskovalnim in razvojno-aplikativnimi projekti dajal osnove bodoči razvojni viziji Slovenije.

V tridesetletnem razvoju raziskovalnega dela Inštituta za geografijo Univerze v Ljubljani je bilo tako, ob splošnih geografskih projektih z regionalno-geografsko vsebino, v ospredju:

- 1) Raziskovanje posameznih prostorsko-strukturnih pojavov in procesov v Sloveniji ali njenih posameznih območjih. Velik poudarek je bil

namenjen hitri transformaciji slovenskega podeželja iz nekdanje klasične agrarne pokrajine v urbanizirano in suburbanizirano pokrajino. Ob tem ni izostalo proučevanje razvoja podeželskih naselij, prenove vasi, kot tudi ne problematika sodobne spremembe kmetijske rabe tal.

- 2) Raziskovanje degradacije geografskega okolja z odzivnostjo socialno-geografskih skupin prebivalstva na pereče degradacijske probleme v posameznih območjih Slovenije. Sistematično raziskovanje, ki sega nekako v sredo sedemdesetih let je našlo ustrezen odmev v tujini. V metodološkem pogledu so bili v novejšem obdobju doseženi vsesplošno uporabni rezultati, ki jih pridoma uporabljajo tudi geografi nekaterih srednjeevropskih držav.
- 3) Raziskovanje etničnogeografskih in političnogeografskih problemov, ki izhajajo iz geopolitičnega položaja Slovenije. Začetnemu proučevanju obmejnih območij in z njimi povezanega položaja narodnih manjšin, se je koncem sedemdesetih let pridružilo še načrtno proučevanje socialnogeografskega položaja slovenskih skupnosti po svetu.

Intenziviranje navedenih sklopov raziskav je potekalo zlasti v osemdesetih letih in tudi po osamosvojitvi, ko so se spričo vse večjega odpiranja Slovenije v Evropo nekatere njene dosedanje prostorsko-strukturne in razvojne značilnosti pokazale kot izrazito zaviralne v procesih integriranja in regionalnega povezovanja na ožji ali širši evropski ter svetovni ravni. Razvejano mednarodno sodelovanje je z delom na konkretnih mednarodnih projektih omogočalo hitro prilaganje metodoloških izhodišč dela novo zaznavnim problemom, povratno pa v svojstvenem prispevku h krepitvi teoretičnih izhodišč raziskovalnega dela. Znanstveno usposabljanje sodelavcev v tujini je prinašalo potrebno širino, kar je vplivalo na ugled inštituta na tujem ter v najvišjih organih mednarodnih geografskih asociacij. Svojestven prispevek sodelavcev inštituta k razvoju slovenske in svetovne geografije pomeni nedavni kongres Mednarodne geografske unije, ko je tudi slovenska geografija postala njen polnopraven član.

Začetno povezovanje z agrarnogeografsko šolo poljskih geografov, socialnogeografsko šolo nemških in avstrijskih geografov v okviru omenjene "münchensko-dunajske šole" ter drugimi geografskimi centri sosednjih držav, se je zlasti v zadnjem desetletju delovno intenzivno širilo še na znanstveno sodelovanje z geografskimi ustanovami srednje in vzhodno-evropskih držav ter tudi z ustanovami prekomorskih držav. Nekateri interdisciplinarno zasnovani problemi proučevanj vse bolj terjajo povezovanje z nadnacionalnimi raziskovalnimi centri, zlasti ker imajo posamezni problemi širši - globalni značaj za procese povezovanja na evropski in svetovni ravni. To je problematika regionalnega in prostorskega planiranja, degradacije geografskega okolja, etničnih manjšin, diaspore, meje ali obmejnih območij in podobno. Programska naravnost na sodobne razvojne probleme Slovenije ter njenega geografskega položaja pomeni nov izziv za mlajšo generacijo, ki zaključuje usposabljanje na doktorski stopnji študija geografije. Že oblikovane raziskovalne skupine z generacijo mlajših raziskovalcev ter univerzitetnih učiteljev so lahko kos novim izzivom, ki jih prinaša tudi uvajanje najsodobnejših raziskovalnih tehnik v geografsko raziskovalno delo.

Spremenjene družbene razmere v Sloveniji po njeni osamosvojitvi ter sprememba njenega geopolitičnega položaja terjajo polno angažiranost raziskovalnega potenciala pri dokončanju širših nacionalnih geografskih projektov kot so ob že doslej navedenih: Nacionalni atlas Slovenije in Regionalno geografska monografija Slovenije. Zavedajoč se prednosti splošnega geografskega položaja Slovenije in dinamike sodobnih prostorskih procesov na globalni, širši regionalni in tudi lokalni ravni ne bi smelo biti ovir, da v okviru nacionalnega raziskovalnega programa omenjenih izzivov ne sprejmemo ter izpolnimo zadane naloge. Znanstveni sestanek z naslovom: Socialna geografija v teoriji in praksi naj bo nova vzpodbuda slovenskim geografom pri njihovem bodočem geografskem razmišljanju in delu.

THIRTY YEARS OF WORK AT THE LJUBLJANA UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY - CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SLOVENE GEOGRAPHY

Thirty years of work at the Ljubljana University Institute of Geography is an important enough anniversary that we, together with our colleagues in Slovenia and abroad, have decided to examine the state of the branch of social geography and in doing so touch upon the current theoretical and methodological points of departure, along with their application to problems, which have received our greatest attention in recent times. Current social conditions in Slovenia and in the world and the position of social geography in the science of geography dictate to us that we must address the following problem. In view of the dynamic world changes taking place and the independence of Slovenia and the making of a new Slovene state, we must submit the problems of our prior and current research to the question of what the future orientation of social geographic research will be. The results which have been obtained up to now should determine whether it was right for the branch to return to the research of social geographic problems and also determine the *direction of future operations*.

The basic point of departure of social geography is to research spatial processes as they happen. These processes continually change the spatial structure of the landscape and the operations of the groups of inhabitants who need the spatial functions. This paradigm was disregarded in geography for a long time. The role of these processes along with those responsible for the processes received attention only after the end of World War II in the face of dynamic changes in spatial structures on local, regional and global levels. Spatial processes actually include a broad palette of actions, but the results are always new structures, that is, changed regional systems: spatial processes destroy existing structures and form new ones. Since this involves a specific aspect of researching a space or the actual landscape and since the problem-oriented approach is positive enough, there have long been debates about its characteristics and functions. These debates have also appeared in Slovene geography for almost three decades. It should be emphasized here that part of Slovene geography was enriched by the approach of the so-called "Munich-Vienna Social Geographic School" and adapted it to the Slovene geographic situation and its development.

The social geographic approach is useful in treating different geographic phenomena, especially if we consider that it is oriented toward processes and their legitimacy in causing spatial effects. Because of this, the proponents of this approach often assert the thesis that it deals with the explanation of processes in the cultural landscape. This approach gained adherents in Slovene geography relatively early on. In the period after World War II and especially in the last three decades the dynamics of the changing Slovene landscape have presented the necessity of searching for effective approaches to researching the spatial conditions in Slovenia. Some have put greater emphasis on the processes, others on spatial structures. Social geography was accepted as a new way of looking at geography and as a concept for treating specific spatial problems. On the other hand, the rapid acceptance of social geography caused some distrust among Slovene geographers and the proponents were reproached for the disrupting role that social geography was playing in the development of the science of geography. Nonetheless, it can be stated that social geography has been valuable in its most basic aspect, the explanation of the relations between people and their use of space.

In contrast to the anthropogeographic approach, the social geographic approach is oriented toward the research of individual human activities in a space, through which people or social groups form the landscape. Groups of inhabitants are in the foreground as actors in the space and as agents of the development of spatial structures. Geographers must not be misled by the stated facts, as if social geography, from the theoretical, methodological and applicative points of view, had realized all of its possibilities or had made a decisive step toward forming a systematic theory of the use of space. There is still an enormous amount of untapped possibilities and empirical verification of points of departure previously proposed on the relations between people and the use of space.

During the time of pioneering this new approach in Slovene geography, when the transition from functional anthropogeography to social geography had already been foreseen, the Ljubljana University Institute of Geography was established. It filled a gap in the scientific-research part of Slovene geography and undertook assignments which were dictated by the level of development of the Slovene science of geography. At that time Slovenia had already begun to "open the iron curtain" and it was gradually starting to receive ideas from the western part of the central European geographic region. Accelerated social development during the thirty-year existence of the Institute of Geography accompanied the rise of new social geographic groups of inhabitants, which continually changed the Slovene landscape from the spatial-interactive point of view. At the same time they also

changed the framework of time-space development. Without systematically arranged research work it was difficult to understand these changes and provide the appropriate vision or strategy for further development. The newly established institute attempted to use the main elements of the social geographic theory, so that with scientific research projects and its developmental applicative projects it could put together a basic developmental vision for the future of Slovenia.

During the thirty-year development of the research work of the Institute, the following general geographic projects (with regional geographic elements) were in the foreground:

- 1) Research of individual spatial-structural phenomena and processes in Slovenia or in particular regions. Great emphasis was placed on the swift transformation of rural areas from the former classical agrarian landscape to an urbanized and suburbanized landscape. The development of rural settlements, renovation of villages and modern changes in agrarian land use were also studied.
- 2) Research of the degradation of the geographic environment and the responsiveness of social geographic groups to the urgent degradation problems in individual regions of Slovenia. Systematic research which extended into the middle seventies received a proper response abroad. Concerning methodology, generally useful results have been achieved in recent times. These results are also used successfully by geographers in some central European countries.
- 3) Research of ethnogeographic and political geographic problems, which come out of the geopolitical position of Slovenia. At the end of the seventies a planned study of the social geographic position of Slovene communities around the world followed the initial research of the border regions in Slovenia and the position of national minorities.

An intensification of the aforementioned research occurred in the eighties and after the independence of Slovenia, when it became apparent that certain spatial-structural and development characteristics were impeding the processes of integration and regional cooperation on narrower and broader European and global levels. With work on specific international projects, international cooperation made it possible to quickly adapt methodological principles of work to newly perceived problems, but the opposite was true of its contribution to the strengthening of the theoretical principles of research work. Scientific training of colleagues in foreign countries brought the needed breadth to the Institute, and this had a significant influence on the reputation of the Institute in the eyes of foreigners and international geographic associations. The personal contributions of

researchers at the Institute to the development of Slovene and world geography was acknowledged at the recent Congress of the International Geographical Union, when Slovene geography was accepted as a full member.

The initial connections to the agrarian geographic school of Polish Geographers, the social geographic school of German and Austrian geographers - the "Munich-Vienna Social Geographic School", and other geographic centers in neighboring countries were intensified in the last decade and expanded to include scientific cooperation with geographic foundations in central and east European countries and also with foundations on other continents. Certain interdisciplinary research problems require links with international research centers, especially because the problems have broader, global characteristics connected to processes on a European or a world level. This includes regional and spatial planning, degradation of the geographic environment, ethnic minorities, diasporas, borders or border regions and the like. The orientation of the research program toward modern development problems in Slovenia and its geographic position means a new challenge for younger geographers who are completing their doctoral studies. The existing research groups, together with the new generation of young researchers and university professors, can be equal to the new challenges, which bring with them the introduction of the most modern research techniques in geographic research work.

The changed social conditions in Slovenia as a result of independence and the changes in the geopolitical position demand a total engagement of the research potential in completing broader national geographic projects, like those already finished: the Atlas of Slovenia and the Regional Geographic Monograph of Slovenia. Awareness of the advantages of the general geographic position of Slovenia and the dynamics of the modern spatial processes on a global, on a broader regional and also on a local level should not be impediments to accepting the above-mentioned challenges concerning the national development program and fulfilling the required tasks. Thus, our scientific symposium with the title: Social geography in theory and in practice should be a new stimulus for Slovene geographers in their future geographic thoughts and work.