

Introduction

The journal *Problemi* was established in 1962. It was founded by the then Socialist Youth Organization and its initial aim was to provide a platform for the younger generation of philosophers, social theorists, writers, poets, artists, people working in humanities etc. It would be difficult to disentangle a common denominator to the variety of young authors, but one could provisionally say that as far as theory is concerned it was initially based in the critical theory of the Frankfurt School in the broadest sense, while in literature and art the journal promoted modernism and avant-garde movements. The journal went through tumultuous times in the sixties and seventies, with a number of groups of different orientations (among them notably Heideggerians) negotiating a difficult cohabitation under the same label. The group whose work was based on structuralism and psychoanalysis, which joined the journal in the late sixties, was just one of the groups. In the eighties, the tensions were largely resolved by the establishment of two new journals, *Nova revija* and *Literatura*, where the other groups could get their proper space, while the ‘structuralism and psychoanalysis’ group, which increasingly developed in the direction of Lacanian theory, became the core group of the journal. In the beginning of the nineties, with the end of socialism and of Yugoslavia, the Society for Theoretical Psychoanalysis (established in 1981) became the official publisher of the journal (along with the book series *Analecta*). — This is a very brief reminder of the journal’s convoluted history, something that would demand a much longer elaboration.

There is a paradox with the establishment of *Problemi International*, the English edition of the journal, whose first issue is launched now in 2017. Since the mid-eighties, *Problemi* has already been massively international. Slavoj Žižek made his big international break-through with the publication of *The Sublime Object of Ideology* in 1989, and has since become one of the best known and most widely discussed theorists globally. He published more than thirty books in English since, and his work has been translated into nearly thirty languages. Several other authors followed suit, including the new generation over the last years. The paradox is that the vast majority of texts, ideas, and arguments that gained international fame and reputation (often described as the ‘Ljubljana School’) have been originally published in *Problemi*, a journal of limited circulation and published in a very small language (two million speakers). *Problemi* has been international for decades, the ideas stemming from this modest journal have gained global audience, while only few people are aware of the point of origin. So, the launch of *Problemi International*, which is to become a regular publication accompanying and supplementing the hard copy edition in Slovene, is a belated actualization of what this journal has been, if not ‘always already,’ then for a very long time.

Problemi has also always been international in the opposite direction, namely by the space, time, energy and care devoted to the translation of most relevant contemporary theorists into Slovene, in the majority of cases providing the first Slovene translations for a number of key figures (notably Lacan, but also many others). The number of international collaborators, whose work was translated in the journal, constantly grew, and it is with great pleasure that the international issue now features our international friends and collaborators alongside with the Slovene authors.

Vivat, crescat, floreat.

Mladen Dolar