**4th International Scientific Conference *„Child in focus – family in social changes“***

**October 2nd and 3rd, 2025**

We invite all professionals and researchers in helping professions to participate in the Fourth International Scientific Conference, "Child in Focus – Family in Social Changes," organized by the Department of Social Work, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Mostar, in collaboration with the Department of Social Work, Faculty of Law in Osijek, University *Josip Juraj Strossmayer* in Osijek.

The primary objective of the conference is to explore contemporary social changes affecting families and helping professions, analyze the contributions of emerging scientific and professional approaches in family support, and assess the role of the community in strengthening family well-being. Through an interdisciplinary perspective, the conference aims to foster dialogue between researchers and practitioners, encouraging the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practices in addressing the challenges faced by families today.

**Keynote Speakers:**

*Carmen Luca Sugawara, PhD, Associate Professor; School of Social Work, Indiana University, the USA*

*Gordana Horvat, PhD; Faculty of Law in Osijek; University Josip Juraj Strossmayer in Osijek, Croatia*

**Conference Topics:**

* Intergenerational cooperation and its significance for family stability and social cohesion
* Optimizing family support at the community level, with a focus on integrated service models
* Legal science with and for families, addressing regulatory frameworks that influence family life
* Families in the digital environment, exploring both challenges and opportunities in the context of digitalization
* The role of the school environment in the positive development of children, youth, and families
* Specific areas of social work with families, emphasizing contemporary methodologies and innovative support strategies

This conference serves as a platform for exchanging scientific insights, practical experiences, and innovative approaches, with the overarching goal of enhancing professional support for families in an evolving social landscape.

**Journal club:**

As a special feature, the journal club *Methodological Mix: How Not to Make a Research Blunder*, chaired by Mateja Marić, PhD, Assistant Professor; will be held as part of the Conference. We invite doctoral students from the field of social sciences to submit their research designs for this educational session. The focus will be on the methodology chosen to answer specific research questions, as well as early identification of potential methodological pitfalls.

**Imporatant dates:**

* Abstract submission deadline: May 1st, 2025 - Abstracts (up to 250 words) must be submitted in both Croatian and English using the designated form and sent to: dijeteufokusu@ff.sum.ba
* Notification of abstract acceptance: June 1st, 2025
* Full paper submission deadline: September 15th, 2025