

Authors of such stature are usually untouchable, and the translations are generally overly cautious copies of the originals. However, despite the fact that the original itself is not exactly rich in clear captions below the sketches and legible text within them, the Slovenian editor could have done a better job of overcoming the original's shortcomings. The sketches are occasionally lost in the text; of course they clearly refer to the content found in a nearby paragraph, but the sketches would need a title of their own or a caption explaining what they represent. For example, the caption under Figure 28 "Roundabout on Charles Street" (page 98): is it in Boston or elsewhere? Of course it's in Boston; I should have read the text. Reading letters that are only 0.7 mm high (i.e., those on the sketches of Boston, page 187, Figure 48: "Image of Boston, based on street interviews"), is painstaking – I digitised the entire thing and read out the font size with CAD software. Such inconveniences are increasingly frequent towards the end of the book (addenda). However, the jewel in the crown of this transla-

tion is the quote from Marcel Proust on page 157. Clearly Lynch read *Du côté de chez Swann* (1954) and the translator must know the Slovenian translation of the work (the interpretation and re-interpretation from 1963, DZS, and later versions in 1970, 1987, 1996 and 2004), and so the Slovenian translation would have gained wider cultural resonance had Proust's summary been based on the Slovenian version.

The Slovenian translation is clearly a conservation process – the original is adhered to as closely as possible. However, should a translation really be merely a translation? The Slovenian edition had the option of exceeding the conservation frame and entering the field of reconstruction of the book's contents – that is, the field of architecture or, rather, spatial design. It would be very interesting to see pictures of those same streets, roundabouts and parks taken today or a few years back. Is the view down Chestnut Street from Charles Street (Boston, of course) still the same as it was? Of course, such an approach would take more time, will

and effort from all those involved, but the result could have been incredible. I dare say such a version of Lynch would echo beyond borders and the Slovenian edition might itself have been translated into other languages. Would that not be a worthy reinterpretation of the reconstruction of the original? That is what architecture, urbanism and spatial design are.

The Slovenian translation, *Podoba mesta* (2010), stays conservatively true to the fifty-year-old original, *The Image of the City* (1960). The book is as irreplaceable as a ficus tree in a secretary's office. Its simple design and clear narration ensures it a special place in the mandatory reading of future spatial designers, architects and many other experts in spatial management. All that remains is for me to wish the Slovenian book many satisfied readers.

[Translated by Lucija Kelbl]

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## Review of *Globalizacija bogatí in/ali ogroža?* (Does Globalisation Offer Enrichment and/or a Threat?)

**Title:** *Globalizacija bogati in/ali ogroža?*

**Author:** Zdravko Mlinar

**Reviewers:** Jan Makarovič and Rudi Rizman

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*Globalizacija bogati in/ali ogroža?* (Does Globalisation Offer Enrichment and/or a Threat?) is the latest book by academy member Zdravko Mlinar, the founder of spatial sociology and a pioneer in studying globalisation in Slovenia. This is the second book from the author's trilogy *Živiljenjsko okolje v globalni informacijski dobi* (The Living Environment

in the Global Information Age); the book titled *Prostorsko-časovna organizacija bivanja* (The Spatial-Chronological Organisation of Living) was already published as part of this trilogy in 2008.

According to the reviewers, *Globalizacija bogati in/ali ogroža?* offers the most comprehensive social study of globali-



sation issues in Slovenia to date. The author presents its content in seven extensive chapters: Sociological Premises and Social Context, Globalisation and Transformation of the Territorial Or-

ganisation of Society, Slovenia and its Opening Up to the World, The Changing Role of the Individual and (Sub) Groups within the Context of Globalisation, Local Responses to Global Changes, From Uncouthness to Cosmopolitanism: They Enter the World through Innovative Improvement of Tradition, and Selected Topics from Slovenian Istria. These are followed by an appendix, which contains other thematic sections selected by the author.

The author discusses the frequently examined concept of globalisation from various aspects and agrees that this concept is extremely difficult to define.

He illustrates the problems of defining globalisation with Ulrich Beck's definition: "globalization has certainly been the most widely used – and misused – keyword in disputes of recent years and will be of the coming years too; but it is also one of the most rarely defined, the most nebulous and misunderstood, as well as the most politically effective." According to Beck, the discourse on globalisation is just as elusive as the concept of globalisation: the attempt "to define it is like trying to nail a pudding to the wall" (p. 6).

Zdravko Mlinar provides a thorough presentation of globalisation and its ef-

fects on the individual, taking various aspects into account. He understands it as a part of the age in which we live, as an everyday-life phenomenon, as a part of the reality we face or at least should face within the context of the current problems in Slovenian society. By addressing and commenting on specific (including local) examples, the author does not present globalisation as something remote and far from an individual, but as "something that can have a positive or negative effect on everybody's life in the mosaic of the modern global world."

Boštjan Kerbler

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