

Dr. Anja Zalta

Dr. Anja Zalta studied Sociology, Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, where she received her PhD in Sociology in 2002. She is an Associate Professor for Sociology of Religion, Sociology Department, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, and author of many articles on religious traditions and identities, inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue, Asian religious paradigms, especially Buddhism, and the role of monotheistic religions in the European cultural and religious history.

Between 2004 and 2006 she was periodically living in Konya, Turkey, where she was conducting a research on secularism in Turkish society, and the role of sufism and Mevlevis in Turkish history. In 2012 and 2019 she was contacted research in Sri Lanka about the social role of socially engaged Buddhism and Sarvodaya movement. In 2013, as an executive of the international project at the Istanbul University, she studied the rights of religious minorities, especially in the Tur Abdin province on the Turkish-Syrian border. At Nan Tien Institute in Wollongong, Australia, in 2014, she analyzed the role of socially engaged Buddhism and led the platform for interreligious dialogue. She also holds a MA degree in Applied Buddhist Studies (NTI Australia).

She is a member of editorial boards of *Družboslovne razprave* and *Poligrafi* (both journals are in Scopus base). She is also the co-editor of the monograph *Women Against War System* (Lit Verlag, Zurich 2017), the international thematic issue *Islam and Democracy* (Poligrafi, 2017 with Dr. Mohamed Ali) and international issue *Understanding Ethnic, Religious and Cultural Minorities in Turkey* (Poligrafi 2021 with Prof. Tahir Abbas and Prof. Umut Azak). She is a member of the international research platform Pluriel (Lyon University), a member of the presidency of the Slovenian Sociological Society and the head of the Religious Section within the Slovenian Sociological Society. Between 2017 and 2019, she was the head of the Department of Sociology (Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana).