

**Antecedents, Possibilities and Prospects of Research of the Present  
(Excerpts from the Work and Plans of the Institute of Ethnology of the HAS)**

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(Summary)

The necessity of constantly renewing the various academic disciplines is a basic truth, which is even more valid for ethnography as well. The social transformation ensuing from the change in European societies, the ever more rapid dissolution of the peasantry, acculturation and globalization by necessity spur the discipline to changes in theoretical approach and methodological renewal so that it may be able to interpret new social processes and phenomena as well. The paper gives a glimpse into the main recent avenues of inquiry and research topics occurring within the Institute of Ethnology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.