

AGEING OF THE YUGOSLAV POPULATION: ANDRIJA ŠTAMPAR'S AND BRANKO KESIĆ'S DETECTION OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE 20TH CENTURY



Stella Fatović-Ferenčić and Martin Kuhar

The Division for the History of Medical Sciences,
Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts

Background

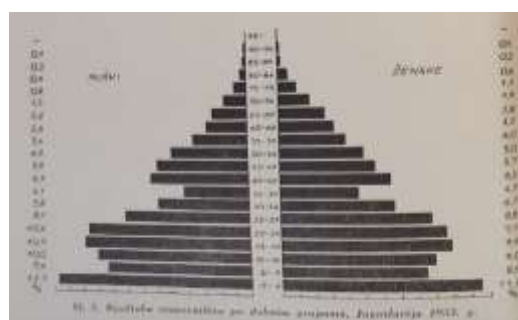
- Gerontology aroused stronger interest among Croatian scholars in the middle of the twentieth century
- Important demographic analyses brought by Andrija Štampar and Branko Kesić

Material & Methods

- Comparative approach to the Croatian gerontology
- Contextual analysis of the works by Štampar and Kesić

Results

- Štampar first anticipated future public health issues regarding the ageing population in 1940
- Štampar claimed that the prolongation of life would change “economic and social structure” and necessitate “new social and health measures”
- Kesić published a chapter Ageing of the Yugoslav Population in the pioneering book The Symposium on Gerontology from 1958
- Kesić compared census data to show the higher life expectancy and a lower number of children



Conclusion

- Dominant public health issues in the first half of the 20th century were infective diseases, hygiene etc.
- Still, Štampar did not neglect to spot the incoming demographic changes and their consequences
- Both Štampar and Kesić agreed that medicine had to solve public health issues concerning the ageing population not only because of humanitarian reasons, but also because of social and economic reasons