

**Simai Mihály:**

## **SCHUMPETER A TÁRSADALOMTUDÓS**

### **/Schumpeter the Social Scientist/**

**It has not been only the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the sudden death of Schumpeter, which motivated the organization of this conference, but the timeliness of many important ideas which have been in the center of his work like the essence of the evolutionary process, the role of entrepreneurship, the concept of creative destructions, the concept and forms of innovations in global development and competition and their importance for shaping the global cycles. Many other issues Schumpeter has been dealt with in his very rich academic life are also timely problems in the 21st century.**

**It is a widely shared view that Schumpeter is more relevant today than in the past century. Contemporary capitalism is a much more complex system, than it was in the past century. It is characterized by a much greater number of states, by different varieties or „models” of the market system and by multilateral institutions. For many people in the developing world the spread of capitalism bears the promise of being included amongst those who enjoy the benefits of globalization. In spite of the fact that the conclusions of Schumpeter about the collapse of the capitalist system and about its evolving successor, have not been fulfilled as he anticipated, and the „contrasting system” collapsed, the „future of capitalism” is an important issue also today, not only in view of the global crises, but also of those global challenges, the system has to face with. Some of the key features of the global capitalist world economy in the 21st Century like the „supercompetition” the uninhibited pursuit of self-interests, the growth of inequalities are increasing instability and unpredictability and are questioning its sustainability.**

**The methodology of his research are also relevant for social scientists and particularly for economists: honouring the facts, connecting statistics and sociology with applied mathematics and psychology in a historical perspective. The „primitive economics” as he characterized many theorists in his age did not disappear. In our century, the transdisciplinary approach, which is integrating economic sociology, economic history, political science, macro and microeconomics with the knowledge of technological changes is even more indispensable for the understanding economics particularly in long term perspectives. In the 21 Century the works of Schumpeter are offering important ideas, lessons and guidelines also for the Hungarian academic world. They facilitate not only the better understanding of the functioning and the main trends of modern capitalism, but also of the Hungarian system. It is a promising fact, that the followers of Schumpeter have an increasing influence in our discipline, and many practitioners in economic policy discovered his timeliness.**