

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Osijek Days of Bioethics

On the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2018 the international conference of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Osijek Days of Bioethics was taking place at the Faculty of Education of the J. J. Strossmayer University of Osijek, with the main topic - “Bioethics, Upbringing and Education”. The conference was organized by the Centre for Integrative Bioethics (J. J. Strossmayer University of Osijek), the Faculty of Education (J. J. Strossmayer University of Osijek), the Faculty of Medicine (J. J. Strossmayer University of Osijek), the newly established Croatian Unit of UNESCO Chair in Bioethics (University of Haifa) with the seat at the Faculty of Education (J. J. Strossmayer University of Osijek), the Centre of Excellence for Integrative Bioethics, the Croatian Bioethics Society, the Centre for Integrative Bioethics, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (University of Split) and the Centre for Integrative Bioethics (Faculty of Philosophy, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje). Rector of the J.J. Strossmayer University, prof. Vlado Guberac, solemnly opened the 2<sup>nd</sup> Osijek Days of Bioethics, and, in his speech, reminded the audience of his promise to secure appropriate space for the University Centre for Integrative Bioethics, which was given a year ago in the opening ceremony of the 1<sup>st</sup> Osijek Days of Bioethics. Rector proudly pointed out that the Rectorate building was finally secured for the Centre for Integrative Bioethics of J. J. Strossmayer University in Osijek. Rector also proudly stated that this kind of Centre deserves its place at the premises of the beautiful and graceful building of the University Rectorate in the heart of city’s historical, cultural and political life – the old town Tvrđa. This act is a huge and important step for the complete work of the Centre for Integrative Bioethics of J. J. Strossmayer University in Osijek, providing the necessary material conditions for further work and future actions. President of the Organizing Committee of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Osijek Days of Bioethics and Head of the Centre for Integrative Bioethics of J. J. Strossmayer University in Osijek, Assist. Prof. Ivica Kelam, PhD, revealed in his introductory speech the fact that on 21<sup>st</sup> October the Croatian Unit of UNESCO Chair in Bioethics (University of Haifa) was founded and headquartered at the Faculty of Education of the J. J. Strossmayer University of Osijek. Kelam also emphasized that the establishment of the new Croatian Unit of UNESCO Chair in Bioethics is a great acknowledgment

for systematic and intensive work on the spread and promotion of bioethical ideas, as, so far, only one Croatian unit of UNESCO Chair in Bioethics has existed, namely, at the Faculty of Law of the University of Zagreb. With the foundation of the new Croatian Unit of UNESCO Chair in Bioethics at the Faculty of Education of J. J. Strossmayer University in Osijek and the forthcoming moving of the Centre for Integrative Bioethics into the premises of the Rectorate, the main preconditions for internationalization and further spread of bioethical ideas and promotion of the University and the Faculty of Education as the Centre for Integrative Bioethics of J. J. Strossmayer University in Osijek are created. Vice-Rector of the University of Zagreb, “founding father” and *spiritus movens* of integrative bioethics, prof. Ante Čović addressed the audience by recalling the importance of bioethics as a challenging and interesting scientific discipline, but also by explaining the term of “integrative bioethics” with its methodology and the subject of scientific study. Vice-Rector Čović gave his full support and expressed an extraordinary pleasure to the fact of development of bioethical scientific events and complete bioethical movement in the city of Osijek and the whole region. The main host of the conference, Dean of the Faculty of Education, J. J. Strossmayer University of Osijek, Damir Matanović, also gave full support to the conference in his speech with the special accent that the Faculty of Education will always be a great supporter and assistant in all bioethical events. As the human aspect of bioethics is closely related to medicine, the address delivered by the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, J. J. Strossmayer University of Osijek, Jure Mirat, was of great importance for the whole event, since the Faculty of Medicine was one of the organisers of the conference, which is an important step in involvement of medical scientists and professions in future bioethical events, researches and projects.

A wide spectrum of interesting aspects and questions was already introduced in the plenary lectures. The first lecture, “Philosophical and educational aspects of compassion”, was held by Ivana Zagorac (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, Croatia). Some of the most influential philosophical theories of compassion were presented in the lecture, and such an overview revealed difficulties in terminological demarcations of the terms sympathy, empathy, and compassion. At the end of the lecture, the concept of bioethical sensibility was examined with special emphasis on its potential in contemporary education and training. Tomislav Krznar (Faculty of Teacher Education, University of Zagreb, Croatia) in the second plenary lecture titled “On the Role of (Teaching) Philosophy in the Education of Preschool Educators” tried to present two dimensions: the first, philosophical questioning of the role of (teaching) philosophy within preschool educational programs, and the second, showing some of the results of a research conducted in three smaller projects (university grants) which investigated the problems outlined in the first mentioned

dimension. It is emphasised that topics listed in the same lecture are important for a revival of the forgotten “reason” of the existence of each educational system, namely education of human as a whole and not just the fulfilment of some social purpose.

After the plenary lectures and a short break, to the thrill of the gathered audience, “Parošćići” Children Amateur Group performed interesting musical called “Sparrowgale”. The “Parošćići” Children Amateur Group is made up of schoolgirls of different ages from Tenja Primary School, from the third to the seventh grade. No group member goes to a music school, so their engagement is pure love for play and creation. It is important to say that the “Vrapcingejl” (“Sparrowgale”) musical won the first prize at the Festival of Children’s Musical Creation, which was held in 2018 at the Museum of Contemporary Art Zagreb. After this interesting performance, two parallel sections of lectures (A and B) began. Predrag Pale opened section A with his lecture “(New) Ethical Challenges in the Mid-Term Future” about ethical questions and challenges in future technology development. Ivica Kelam pointed to the connection between doubtful and neoliberal philanthrocapitalist vision of Bill Gates and upbringing and education in his lecture “Philanthrocapitalism – education tailored to Bill Gates”. Marija Heffer in her lecture “Technological Patch for Incapacity of Upbringing and Education System to Work within Critical Development Periods for Human Brain” gave a big accent on the immense child and brain possibilities of the very early phase of human life. Section A was concluded by Aleksandar Racz and the lecture “Tree Hugging – Ecological Fanaticism, Affectation or Re-Discovered Ancient Wisdom” about very interesting phenomenon of “tree hugging” and all its aspects and reaches in today’s modern world. Hrvoje Jurić opened section B with the lecture “Knowledge and Morality in Bioethical Education and Upbringing” and one of the main questions of the same lecture: “Is moral virtue necessarily an attribute of a good scientist and a theoretically and practically wise man?” Mile Marinčić and Berislav Čović held a lecture “Bioethics in Secondary School Teaching” about some aspects and reaches of curricular reform in the way of preserving of some (bioethical) high school subjects. After the same lecture, Mile Marinčić held another lecture with his colleague Tatjana Trošt Bobić entitled “Bioethics in Physiotherapy and Nursing Schools’ Programs” about bioethics as a subject (syllabus, profile of the lecturers/ teachers etc.) in the Physiotherapy Polytechnic and Nursing High schools. Section B was concluded by Emina Berbić Kolar with the lecture “Lexicological Contributions to the Preservation of Slavonian Traditional Language Culture” and the lexicological significance of the most arduous speeches of Slavonian dialect, in particular the lexicological offerings of the two protected Slavonian dialectical speeches: the Siče speech and the Stari Perkovci speech.

After a short coffee break, the last two parallel sections of the day started. In section A Macedonian colleagues Dejan Donev and Trajče Stojanov introduced all aspects

and possibilities of bioethical education in Macedonian High Schools and Faculties with the lecture “Possibility of Implementing (Bio)Ethical Education in Secondary Schools and Faculties in Macedonia”. Anto Čartolovni tried to predict bioethical problems and doubts, but also the future in the way of artificial intelligence in the lecture “The Role of Philosophy and Ethics in the Era of Artificial Intelligence”. In the lecture “Upbringing and Technicising of Man”, Boško Pešić tried to answer the question of whether we are able to sufficiently perceive how much the technicising of human nature can change our self-understanding. A colleague from Novi Sad, Željko Kaluđerović, in the lecture “Bioethics, Upbringing and Education” stated the important fact that it is necessary to bioethically codify the issue of social responsibility of scientists, which due to its adequate internalisation should be an integral part of their upbringing and education from the earliest days. In the example of non-invasive BCI technology that has been on the rise for the last couple of decades, Vjekoslav Galzina and Valentina Mirković were considering the issues that arose with the use of this and such technologies in the lecture “The Issue of Using a Human–Computer Interface in Technical and Informatics Education”. In the section B, Zrinka Vukojević Tomašić opened the session with the lecture “Why Philosophy in Grammar School?” about the motives of secondary school teachers of philosophy, i.e. why they consider teaching philosophy important. Zoran Kojčić was talking about the tools which will show in what ways bioethics and biosophy could contribute to a lifelong learning and education of the individual in his lecture “Lifelong Care of the Self”. Aim of the lecture “Care and Empathy in Education” of Darija Rupčić Kelam was to illuminate the role and purpose of education as an ideal of antiquity and the Enlightenment, whose purpose is shaping the overall personality with a focus on its relational dimension and the role of a builder of a better society. Luka Vojčevski from Novi Sad in his lecture “University and Society: the Founding and Development of Higher Education Institutions in the Republic of Serbia for Education and Professional Training of Future Academic Citizens” was talking about the origin of the University in Serbia, relying on the literature on the sociology of education. At the end of the session, Snježana Dubovicki and Marta Budić in the lecture “The Upbringing Role of the Pedagogy Workshop” tried to investigate whether the pedagogy workshop contributes to encouraging the upbringing function of teaching.

On the second day, “Philosophical Café” was held by colleague Zoran Kojčić. “Philosophical Café” is a verbal interaction about certain topics with students who give their opinions and observations with a cup of coffee or tea in their hands. After “Philosophical Café”, the last two parallel sections of the conference began. Ivana Ivančić Medved opened the first A section with the lecture “Marcus Aurelius – Thoughts and the Quality of Life” and presented the ideal of a perfect life by

interpreting the virtues in the work of Marcus Aurelius or – as the Stoics called it – the science on an honest life. Lidija Bakota in her paper presented “Živobran” (1894–1904), a journal/magazine of the Croatian Association for the Protection of Animals, and its contribution to the development of social awareness on natural, cultural and ethical values of animal species with special reference to their educational role in the lecture “Zoolinguistic Readings of Živobran, a Magazine of the Croatian Association for the Protection of Animals, and its Educational Role in the Promotion of Animal Rights Among School Population at the Turn from the 19th to the 20th Century”. Ana Popović, Irella Bogut, Željka Crnojević and Željko Popović, among other things, considered the basic settings of ecological education in an early and pre-school age, with special reference to current practice in Croatian kindergartens in the lecture “Children’s Play ‘The Ecological Story’ in Function of Ecological Education of Preschool Children”. In the lecture “Active Fatherhood from Student’s Perspective” Maja Brust Nemet and Viktorija Livaja Budaić emphasized that the active involvement of fathers in the child’s upbringing affects the overall growth and development of the child, and father’s style of education conditions the direction of the influence on individual aspects of the child’s life. In the last lecture of the section A, Valentina Majdenić and Ivka Saratlija were describing picture books with ecological themes and were analysing the functions of individual picture books in the lecture “Picture Books and Illustrated Books for Younger School-Age Children Aimed at Ecological Education”. Section B was opened by Iris Broman and the lecture “Welfare of Laboratory Animals” about welfare and all positive and negative aspects of biomedical researches on laboratory animals. Ivan Miškulin, Jure Mirat, Terezija Berlančić and Maja Miškulin in the lecture “Ethical Issues in Public Health Research” emphasized that ethics in public health involves the interplay between protecting the welfare of the individual, as in medicine, and the public health goal of protecting the public welfare. Tomislav Nedić tried to present the new, bioethical fields of law in scientific, pragmatic and educational circles (medical law, sport law, environmental law, and animal law) in the lecture “Bioethical Perspectives in Law”. In reference, Vesnica Mlinarević, Antonija Huljev and Ružica Tokić presented a comparative analysis of study programs and learning outcomes in Early Childhood and Pre-school Education as well as Class Teacher Study Programs at Teacher Faculties/Faculties of Education in the Republic of Croatia focused on the (bio) ethics, education and ethics of the teacher’s calling in the lecture “Bioethics Between Theory and Practice: Comparative Analysis of Study Programs”. The last lecture of the section B was held by Luka Janeš who demonstrated basic methodological lines of the project of implementation of bioethical sensitivity in the early education system, with a teleological focus on the connection between bioethical education and the prevention of mental disorder development in children and adults in his lecture

“Implementing Bioethical Sensibility in the Early Education System as a Basis for the Protection and Preservation of Mental Health”.

After the sections, Bruno Ćurko held the workshop “Anuška, the Mediterranean Monk Seal”. As Bruno Ćurko stated, the “Anuška, the Mediterranean Monk Seal” workshop is a part of the program “A Look at One’s Own Thinking”. The Croatian NGO “Petit Philosophy” has been implementing this program in schools since 2008. In 2010, this program won the second place for a creative and innovative education program at the “Annual Days of Creativity and Innovation”, organised by the Croatian NGO “Mrak”. In 2011, “A Look at One’s Own Thinking” won the “Join!” award for contributing to a positive social change. The program and parts of the program were conducted in dozens countries of Europe and in South Korea.

After the sections and workshop, closing discussion and closing of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Osijek Days of Bioethics were held, where all participants emphasized the importance of this kind of manifestations and activities, but also the fact that the topic of these Osijek Days of Bioethics was pretty interesting and relevant to the lecturers and the audience. That kind of fact brought interesting lectures and excellent lecturers to this year’s Osijek Days of Bioethics. It was also stated that the topic of the “3<sup>rd</sup> Osijek Days of Bioethics” will be related to bioethics and sports.

In bioethical sense, all interested participants of the Conference visited the Asylum Osijek – Shelter for Abandoned Animals in the leadership of NGO “Pobjede”. All visitors had the opportunity to walk abandoned dogs along the walking trail of the river Drava in Nemetin. After the walk, the beloved host NGO “Pobjede” prepared an excellent vegan lunch for all visitors who enjoyed in lunch, nice talk and hanging. The organisers of the Conference expressed their gratitude to the NGO “Pobjede” for their great hospitality, but also gave a full support for their unselfish and noble work, which brings hope to bioethical connection between human and animal beings, but also human beings and whole nature in general.

**Tomislav Nedić**

**Ivica Kelam**