

Guest Editor's Editorial

On behalf of the Organisation Committee of the *Osijek Days of Bioethics*, I thank the Editorial Board of *Jahr – European Journal of Bioethics* for this special section dedicated to the 1st *Osijek Days of Bioethics*, held on November 7 and 8, 2017, in Osijek and 2nd *Osijek Days of Bioethics*, held on November 5 and 6, 2018 in Osijek. *Osijek Days of Bioethics* were organized by the Centre for Integrative Bioethics at the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, the Faculty of Education, the Faculty of Medicine at the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, in cooperation with the Centre of Excellence for Integrative Bioethics, and the Croatian Bioethics Society, the Centre for Integrative Bioethics at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Split, and the Centre for Integrative Bioethics at the Faculty of Philosophy, Ss. Cyril and Methodius of the University of Skopje.

The *Osijek Days of Bioethics* is a scientific event that takes place every year in November in Osijek. The *Osijek Days of Bioethics* aim is to promote bioethical ideas and sensibilities in Osijek, Slavonia, and the wider region. With this idea in mind, the 1st *Osijek Bioethics Days* were organized in 2017 with a focus on GMOs and international trade agreements. However, there were also plenty of presentations on general bioethical topics. On the 1st *Osijek Bioethics Days*, thirty presentations were held. Some of them are published in this issue of *Jahr*.

The 2nd *Osijek Days of Bioethics* were held in 2018. The event was organized by the Faculty of Education, and the central theme of the conference was bioethics and education. Over fifty participants participated, very thoughtfully and intensively reflecting on the relationship between bioethics, upbringing, and education, and particular emphasis was placed on the need to introduce and work to develop bioethical sensibilities in all age groups within the educational process. Some papers presented at the conference are now published in this issue of *Jahr*.

The response and perception of *Osijek Days of Bioethics* have shown that there is a need for this kind of scientific manifestation in eastern Slavonia, and that, thanks to this manifestation, Osijek takes its place on the bioethical map of the world.

This special issue offers a total of one original scientific article, two preliminary communications, three review articles, one professional article and one letter to the editor as a result of selected and peer-reviewed papers presented at the first and second *Osijek Days of Bioethics*.

Luka Janeš opens the special section with his work, entitled „Biopolitical Laboratory and the Genetic Modification of the Psyche“. In his article, the author observes human psyche as a kind of relational dialectical tangent that vitally connects the mind and body of an individual, both cognitive and materially, and argues that genetic engineering over it does not require research laboratories in which scientists “play” with mental genes, but for that quest sufficient tools are the ones of “biopolitical laboratory” with an instrumental methodology marked by the marketing pressures and the media lobotomization, biopolitical manipulation, cultural determinations, abiotic education and excessive use of medicaments in the psychiatric treatment of mental disorders. Josip Guć, in his work entitled „Self-Realisation of Living Beings and GMOs“, reflects upon an ethical framework for rethinking moral regard for human and non-human living beings based on the notion of self-realization. Such an ethical position attempts to establish a biocentric consideration without departing too far from the classical ethical categories. It is suitable for judging contemporary concrete moral problems, which certainly includes the question of the justification of the genetic modification of organisms in agriculture. Mile Marinčić and Berislav Čović in their contributed work, entitled „A Philosophical-Theological View on International Trade Agreements“, give a new perspective on the problem of international trade agreements, with particular emphasis on CETA and TTIP agreements in the context of Croatia. The authors analyse the role and relationship of bioethicists, philosophers, and theologians to the aforementioned trade agreements, concluding that in the future, they need more significant engagement. Željko Kaluđerović in his paper entitled „Genetically Modified Plants – A Bioethical Approach“, gives an overview of the most significant bioethical problems associated with the technology of genetic modification of the plants in the last twenty years. Snježana Dubovicki and Marta Budić in their contributed work, entitled „Intellection of Upbringing in Global Context of Present and Future Challenges in Pedagogy“, try to investigate whether the pedagogy workshop contributes to encouraging the upbringing function of teaching. They have distinguished the pedagogy workshop from other social forms because participation in it equally affects the sensory, emotional, and moral functions of all the participants in the teaching process (and not just intellectual ones) that were important in the research of the role of the upbringing. Jelena Loborec, Saša Zavrtnik, and Damir Žubčić in their contributed work, entitled „The Role of Bioethics in the Education of Engineers of Environmental Protection“, analyse the need to introduce a course that would address bioethical concepts in higher education, based on the study programme of Environmental Engineering at the Faculty of Geotechnical Engineering of the University of Zagreb. The authors make it clear that the course in bioethics in which the relationship between man and his environment will be studied, with a strong emphasis on ethical relation to life, is indispensable in the education of future engineers of environmental protection. This special issue closes with

a professional article of Dejan Donev, entitled „Prohibited Production and Marketing of GMOs in North Macedonia“, who describes a brief history of genetically modified crops in Northern Macedonia.

The Organisation Committee of the Osijek Days of Bioethics hopes that this special issue will contribute to the promotion of bioethical ideas in Osijek and eastern Slavonia, and give an additional impetus to understanding the bioethical challenges we are facing in Croatia posed by GMO issues, international trade agreements, the possibility and future of bioethical education in Croatia and the region, but also to support the efforts of bioethicists in the field of education.

Ivica Kelam

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