19th Lošinj Days of Bioethics

Veli Lošinj, 10th–13th October 2021

The 19th international scientific and cultural event Lošinj Days of Bioethics was organised by the Croatian Philosophical Society, Croatian Bioethics Society and the Town of Mali Lošinj, and co-organised by the Centre for Excellence for Integrative Bioethics and the Faculty of Croatian Studies, University of Zagreb. The manifestation was held during October 10th – October 13th, 2021 in Veli Lošinj, Croatia. This year’s Student Bioethics Workshop, organised by the Philosophy Students Association of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb, and co-organised by the Department of Philosophy of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb, focused on “Bioethics, Upbringing and Education”. The patron of the 19th Lošinj Days of Bioethics was Primorje-Gorski Kotar County. The organisation committee of the Lošinj Days of Bioethics included President Ante Čović (Zagreb), Chief Secretary Hrvoje Jurić (Zagreb), Business Secretary Mira Matijević (Zagreb) and 69 other Members. The organisation team of the Student Bioethics workshop included Ana Daria Bokan, Josip Perića, Matija Vigato, Mihael Vrbanc, and Jan Defrančeski.

The opening ceremony and welcoming speeches of the 19th Lošinj Days of Bioethics were held on Monday, October 11, and it was followed by a plenary lecture entitled “The Importance of Fritz Jahr’s Thought for Contemporary Bioethics of Complexitys”. The lecture was held by the renowned Italian bioethicist, Luisella Battaglia, winner of the International award for Research and Promotion of European Bioethics “Fritz Jahr” for 2020, given for the fifth time by the Fritz Jahr Documentation Research Centre for European Bioethics at the University of Rijeka. On the second day of the symposium, October 12, Thomas Sören Hoffmann, a renowned German bioethicist and the winner of the International award for Research and Promotion of European Bioethics “Fritz Jahr” for 2020, held a plenary lecture entitled “Integrative Bioethics – Bridge to the Future”. Afterwards, the symposium
was held in three parallel sections in Croatian and English language. The following 31 papers were presented: Iva Rinčić, Amir Muzur (Croatia): In the West Something New: Contemporary Trends in Spanish Bioethics; Amir Muzur, Iva Rinčić (Croatia): The Apparition of Ivan Šegota in Upper Bessarabia or How Small Moldavia Develops Great Bioethics; Toni Buterin, Robert Doričić, Iva Rinčić, Amir Muzur (Croatia): Bioethics Institutionalisation in Kosovo and Albania: Far from Completed; Bruno Ćurko (Croatia): Cultural Animalistics as an Educational Tool for Overcoming Prejudices about Animals; Josip Guć (Croatia): Theory and Practice of Nikola Visković’s Engagement in Zelena akcija Split (Green Action Split); Igor Eterović (Croatia): Distribution and Nature of Bioethics Topics by Mediterranean Authors on the Example of the Journal Jahr; Jan Defrančeski (Croatia): An Ecophilosophical and Cognitive-Linguistic Analysis of the Concept of Environment; Saša Zavrtnik, Jelena Loborec, Damir Žubčić (Croatia): Extinction of Bees – Tearing the Weaving of Life on Earth; Franco Manti (Italy): A Planetary Bioethics for the Sons of the Earth; Bernard Špoljarić (Croatia): The Inseparability of Human from Nature and the Internal Dynamics of Beingness; Eleni Kalokairinou (Greece): From Infertility and Genetic Technologies to Bioethics, Biolaw, and Bioauthority; Luka Perušić (Croatia): Gilbert Hottois and the Imperative of Technics; Matija Vigato (Croatia): Perspective-Taking in Bioethics; Danijela De Micheli Vitturi (Croatia): Post-abortion Syndrome – a Logotherapeutic Approach; Anita Dučkić Sertić (Croatia): Spirituality as a Resource in Overcoming Family Crises – Application of Logotherapeutic Approach in Marital and Family Counselling; Marko Kos (Croatia): Introductory Remarks on the Concept of Cynicism; Igor Čatić (Croatia): We Also Need an Assessment of Medicine; Dragana Srebro, Sonja Vučković, Katarina Savić Vujović, Branislava Medić Brkić, Branko Dožić, Milica Prostran (Serbia): Pain as the Fifth Vital Sign; Marija Mato Škerbić (Croatia): Transgender Women vs. Women in Sport – the Case of Laurel Hubbard at the Tokyo Olympics; Lidija Knorr (Croatia): Infected by Market; Ivica Kelam, Kristina Dilica (Croatia): Bioethical Aspects of the Impact of Conspiracy Theories on the Public Perception of COVID-19 Pandemic and the Vaccination Program in the Republic of Croatia; Roberto Mužić, Ivana Pavić Šimetin, Danijela Štimac Grbić (Croatia): Preservation of Mental Health in Sisak-Moslavina County; Darija Rupčić Kelam, Lidija Štimac (Croatia): Kinesthetic Empathy on the Value of Non-verbal Communication in Dance/Movement Therapy; Marijana Neuberg, Nikola Mihinjač (Croatia): Volunteering – an Added Value in the Education of Health Professionals; Julija Erhard, Ivana Greguric, Nataša Jokić-Begić, Eva Jurković, Anita Lauri Korajlija; Ana Maskalan, Iris Sarajlić-Vuković, Marija Selak Raspudić, Dubravka Švob Štrac (Croatia): Pharmacological Human “Enhancement”: Attitudes and Practices of Students at the University of Zagreb; Jelena Pudak, Vladimir Ivanović, Tijana Trako Poljak (Croatia): Fridays for Future Croatia Movement: Aspects
and Trajectory of the Pro-environmental Youth Movement; Ksenija Klasnić, Jelena Puđak, Tijana Trako Poljak (Croatia): A New Generation of Climate Activists – a Typology of Attitudes and Some Determinants of Participation in Fridays for Future Protests of Croatian High School Students; Bruno Štimac, Jelena Puđak, Tijana Trako Poljak (Croatia): Pro-environmental Behaviour of Croatian Students During the COVID-19 Pandemic; Tijana Trako Poljak, Antonija Bukvić-Letica, Tea Tomic (Croatia): Ethical Positions Behind Giving the Rights to Animals and Behaving Toward the Living Co-world Among Young People in Croatia; of which the later 4 were presented online.

The International Student Bioethics Workshop “Bioethics, Upbringing and Education” was the 16th student bioethics workshop organised as a part of the programme of Lošinj Days of Bioethics. After the opening ceremony and welcoming speeches, Matija Mato Škerbić held a plenary lecture entitled “Why Bioethics in Upbringing and Education”. About 23 students from various scientific fields, coming from the University of Osijek, Zadar, and Zagreb, participated in the three study days of the Workshop. In those three days, apart from presenting their own student papers, students participated in three smaller workshops: (I) Interactive Workshop “Bioethics and Chill – Bioethics and Alternative Pedagogies”; (II) Student Debate Workshop “(Bio)ethics of Discussion”; and (III) Research Inovatorium: Introduction into Writing an Interdisciplinary Paper.

Except for the Students bioethics workshop, three more relevant events were organised within the manifestation: (I) Presentation of recent bioethical publications; (II) Round Table “Pandemic and Bioethics”; and (III) Bioscope: Epidemic and Pandemic on Film.

During the presentation of recent bioethical editions, traditionally held on Monday, the nine new following bioethical publications were presented: Josip Guć, Hrvoje Jurić (ur./eds.): Nikola Visković: pravo – politika – bioetika [Nikola Visković: Law – Politics – Bioethics]; Ante Čović, Hrvoje Jurić (ur./eds.): Integrativno mišljenje i nova paradigma znanja [Integrative Thinking and New Paradigm of Knowledge]; Tomislav Krznar (ur./ed.): Filozofija i ekonomija [Philosophy and Economy]; Anna Lydia Svalastog, Srečko Gajović, Andrew Webster (eds.): Navigating Digital Health Landscapes; Martin Woesler, Hans-Martin Sass (eds.): Medicine and Ethics in Times of Corona & Medizin und Ethik in Zeiten von Korona; Hrvoje Jurić: Pandemija kao simptom [Pandemic as a Symptom]; Danijela De Micheli Vitturi: Strah od rođanja [Fear of Childbirth]; Miloš Marković: Fizička kultura i etika [Physical Culture and Ethics]; and Posada Mediteranskog dana obale 2020: Jadrane, imamo problem! [Adriatic, We Have a Problem].
On the Round Table “Pandemic and Bioethics”, the five following papers were presented: Marcus Knaup (Germany): The Corona Crisis as a New Epoch? Philosophical Considerations; Ludwig Krüger (Germany): The Need for Rational Justification of Freedom Restricting Measures in the Course of the Corona Epidemic in Germany; Srećko Gajović (Croatia): Zombification of Society: can a Virus Transform a Human Being?; Vanja Kopilaš, Srećko Gajović (Croatia): Mental Health During COVID-19 Pandemic; and Zoran Todorović, Danijela Tiosavljević, Sandra Radenović (Serbia): The Origin of the SARS-CoV-2 Virus as a Bioethical Problem, of which the latter was presented online.

The bioscope was arranged in a sequence of introductory lectures by Hrvoje Jurić (Croatia) and film projections (Variola Vera, director: Goran Marković, Yugoslavia, 1982, 110 minutes), which drew a parallel between then (Variola Vera) and now (COVID-19) pandemics.

In conclusion, bearing in mind the postponement of last year’s Lošinj Days of Bioethics due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we can say that this year’s Lošinj Days of Bioethics were more than successful. Namely, the 19th Lošinj Days of Bioethics, once again, brought together a large number of experts, professors, and students from various scientific, philosophical, and cultural spheres, with the aim of providing orientational knowledge for the future.