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Addendum to the article “Ambiguous Experience: A Contribution to Understanding Experience as Discourse”
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The article “Ambiguous Experience: A Contribution to Understanding Experience as Discourse” published in 2011 in this journal is primarily concerned with the cultural history of the term experience in the broader scope of its Western usage, and because of that, the article intentionally avoids anthropological engagements with the term. However, after examining the anthropological literature on the topic more closely, and taking into account the fact that Studia ethnologica Croatica is an anthropological journal, I felt obliged to especially acknowledge the work of Professor Jason Throop from the Department of Anthropology, UCLA which was unjustly, only cursory, referenced in the context of my original article. This might give readers the wrong impression that Throop’s work has little to do with the problems I was discussing in the article. Nothing could be further from the truth since Throop’s contribution to the topic of experience is indeed significant and deserves a more careful working through.

Inspired by the work of a philosopher Martin Jay, Songs of Experience (2005), in my article I primarily approached the ambiguity of experience through the optics of Erlebnis-Erfahrung polarity ingrained in this term and I did so, as was already acknowledged, in a far more general way. This is why I neglected to include Throop’s explicit efforts in using the ambiguous properties of the experience itself as a means for making sense of the debates in anthropology over how to understand, theorize, and utilize the concept, and in so doing, how to work toward their reconciliation. Throop’s publications, some of which predate Jay’s book (in which Throop’s work is not mentioned), are invaluable in this regard, especially because the attempts to reconcile these debates on experience relied on the phenomenological and pragmatic insights into the temporal dynamics of experience and the patterning of attention. I sincerely hope that by adding the amended list of publications I shall succeed in making up for my omission. I would also like to thank Professor Jason Throop for pointing it out to me.


