

Scientific Progress on Research in Anthropology and Health

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2011 was a year of special celebration for everyone associated with organizing, presenting, and attending past Anthropology and Health courses. In recognition of the scientific exchanges of research advances, the organizers sent out a broad invitation to past participants to come to Dubrovnik for a celebratory conference, the 31st. Within an overall theme of »Anthropology and Health: Addressing Vexing Challenges in the Year 2011«, we held a rich two day lecture program and a very full social and cultural program from June 11th to 14th 2011, in a premises of the Anthropological Center of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Dubrovnik, Croatia. Nine countries were represented among the participants. The following provides a historical background and schedule of the scientific and social events.

Historical Background and Significance

In 1984 The Anthropology and Health Course was established, taking a highly interdisciplinary approach to anthropology. In its inception year, the course's topic was »Biological and Sociocultural Contributions«, and topics addressed over the years have ranged from »Domains of Application in the 21st Century« to »New Challenges in Molecular Anthropology and Genetics«, as examples. The intent in founding the course was to provide an international context within which health issues at all levels of the human experience using local, regional, na-

tional and global perspectives could be addressed and discussed. Along with many other colleagues, Academician Pavao Rudan and Professor Linda Bennett were instrumental in creating the new course. For the past 27 years the actual meeting places of the Anthropology and Health courses have 'migrated' along the Adriatic coast, starting in Dubrovnik at the Inter-university Centre for Post-Graduate Studies in Dubrovnik in 1984; during Croatia's Defence War in 1992 it was held in Motovun on the Istrian Peninsula; from the late 1990s and to the early-mid 2000s it was held in the town of Hvar on the Island of Hvar; and from 2009 onwards the course has been held in Dubrovnik in the Anthropological Center of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. According, in 2011 lectures were also held at the Anthropological Center of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts at the St. Jacob Monastery in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

Over the years, hundreds of colleagues have taken part in the Anthropology and Health course; participants consider themselves not merely as colleagues, but as friends sharing the common bond of the high quality lectures, the excellent cuisine and wine, beautiful scenery and culturally enriching social program of museums, art galleries, music, vineyards and arboreta. This sense of collegiality provided a major impetus as we approached the 27th birthday of the Anthropology and Health Courses; thus, we invited friends and colleagues – old and new – to participate in the celebratory 2011 conference.

27th Annual (31st) International Course on Anthropology and Health

Special Celebratory Conference

Dubrovnik, Croatia, June 12th – June 16th, 2011

Location: Anthropological Center of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, St. Jacob Monastery, Vlahe Bukovca 14, 20000 Dubrovnik, Croatia

Sunday Evening: Welcoming reception, Sorkočević Palace. The cold stone castle was warmed by the sounds of a lively guitar, the chatter of people and the delightful

tastes of food and wine. Pavao Rudan conducted his amazing ritual of talking about each person in turn, with his characteristic jokes and remembrances. Each one of us felt uniquely singled-out for his jesting and praise. Many in the group then »turned the table« on Pavao and spoke of his enduring contributions to the event and Croatian anthropology.

Monday

Welcome and overview remarks: Pavao Rudan (Croatia): Declaring Myself and Melancholic Recapitulation

Reflections paper: Linda Bennett (USA): Coming and Going to Croatia: Reflections on Four Decades

Medical Anthropology – Transitions/ Transformations

Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban (USA): Shari'a Law and Organ Transplants

Robert J. Meier (USA): A Critique of Race-based and Genomic Medicine

Nikša Sviličić (Croatia): The History and the Future of Visual Anthropology

Linda M. Whiteford (USA): Cuba in Transition – Primary Health Care in the time of Chronic Illness

Peter Kunstadter (USA), Rasamee Thawsirichuchai, Lakela Chataw, Wirachon Yangyernkun, and Sophie LeCoeur: Constraints and Facilitators for Access to HIV/AIDS Services for Minorities and Migrants: Citizenship, Ethnicity, and Location in Northern Thailand

Richard Lobban (USA): African Health as a Security Issue: the case of AIDS

Kazuhiko Yamamoto (Japan): An Inadvertent Neglect of Emotion at Large in Social Science May be Related to the Deterioration of Mental Health in Modern Society

Psychological Stress/Trauma

Barbara G. Melamed (USA): Tragedies of War: Polytrauma Impedes Reintegration Back Home

J. Douglas Uzzell (USA): Neuro-Cultural Approaches to Healing Trauma: Anthropology Meets Psycho-neurological Treatment of Stress Disorders

Joško Sindik (Croatia): Factor Analysis as a Method to Determine Cultural Differences in Psychological Concepts (Hardiness and Coping Styles in Communication Conflicts)

Evening: Tour of Home of Artist Vlaho Vukovac and Dinner at the restaurant »Leut« along the Adriatic Sea in Cavtat, hosted by Mr. Dubravko Jukić

Tuesday

Growth and Aging

Rachael Leahy and Douglas Crews (USA): Allostatic Load as Predictor of Senescent Decline: Literature Review and Future Perspectives

Elena Godina (Russia): Secular Trends in Russian Populations in Recent Years

Andrea Tomljenović (Croatia): Insight into Spermatogenesis and Fertility Renewal

Maruška Vidovič (Slovenia) and Douglas E. Crew (USA): Assessing Stress, Frailty and Health to Unravel Senescence, Aging and Disease

Noël Cameron (UK): Growth during Infancy and Health during Adulthood

Douglas E. Crews and Denise R. Allman (USA): Allostatic Load and Frailty in Anthropological and Clinical Research on Elders and the Male-Female Morbidity-Mortality Paradox

Nutrition, Obesity

Saša Missoni (Croatia): Nutritional Habits of the Croatian Population: Historic and Contemporary Trends

Maria Inês Varela-Silva (UK): The Nutritional Dual Burden in Developing Countries: Health Implications

Jana Pařízková (Czech Republic): Adiposity as Related to Nutritional and Motor Individualities

Leslie Sue Lieberman (USA): Global Prevalence of Overweight and Obesity in Preschoolers

Morphology and Behavior

Ivor Janković (Croatia): B/s Layer of the Šandalja II Site: Some New Insights

Katrin Schäfer (Austria): Characteristics of the Face and What They Mean: Lessons from Geometric Morphometrics

Closing Remarks: Conference Organizers and Participants

Wednesday

Trip to Trsteno Aboretum, winery in Ponikve village on Pelješac Peninsula, tour of the Ston Museum, and a very leisurely and delicious lunch at the Restaurant »Bakus« in Ston. In this relaxed atmosphere, many members of the group shared »remembrances« from earlier conferences, adding a special touch to the celebratory event.

Following the conference, some of the presenters submitted their papers to Collegium Antropologicum for review and publication. The titles of the published papers certainly convey the eclectic and rich array of issues covered by conference presenters:

1. Robert J. Meier (USA): A Critique of Race-based and Genomic Medicine
2. Rachael Leahy and Douglas Crew (USA): Allostatic Load and Senescent Decline
3. Jana Pařízková (Czech Republic): The Role of Motor and Nutritional Individuality in Childhood Obesity
4. Joško Sindik (Croatia): Data Analysis Strategies for Reducing the Influence of Bias in Cross-Cultural Research
5. Nikša Sviličić (Croatia): Guidelines for the Structure of Methodological Processes in Visual Anthropology. (Published in 35 (4) 2011 issue of Collegium Antropologicum).
6. Maria Inês Varela-Silva, Federico Dickinson, Hannah Wilson, Hugo Azcorra, Paula Griffiths and Barry Bogin (UK): The Nutritional Dual-Burden in Developing Countries: How it is Assessed and What are the Health Implications?

7. Maruška Vidovič and Douglas E. Crews: The Selška Valley Study of Health and Aging: Unraveling Senescence, Stress and Frailty

2011 Conference Organizers: Linda A. Bennett (USA), Linda Whiteford (USA), Leslie Lieberman (USA), Pavao Rudan (Croatia), Saša Missoni (Croatia) and Sanja Špoljar-Vržina (Croatia). The conference organizers and all the participants deeply appreciate the highly supportive efforts of Ivor Janković (Croatia), Marijana Briški (Croatia) and Zrinka Premužić (Croatia).

We are especially indebted to our sponsor The Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of

Croatia and to our organizers and supporters The Department of Natural Sciences, Croatian Academy of Science and Arts, the Croatian Anthropological Society, and the Institute for Anthropological Research in Zagreb, Croatia.

Planning for Future Conferences: 2011 Conference organizers in collaboration with conference presenters are in the midst of planning for future Anthropology and Health Conferences which will be held in the Anthropological Center of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts at the St. Jacob Monastery in Dubrovnik, Croatia from 5th to 10th August, 2012.

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