16th Lošinj Days of Bioethics

The 16th international scientific and cultural event Lošinj Days of Bioethics was organized by the Croatian Philosophical Society, Croatian Bioethics Society and the City of Mali Lošinj, and co-organized by the Centre of Excellence for Integrative Bioethics. The manifestation was held from May 14th – May 17th, 2017 at “Aurora” and “Vespera” hotels in Mali Lošinj, Croatia. This year’s Student Bioethics Workshop, specially focused on “Abortion: Political Topic, Bioethical Problem”, was organized by the Students of Philosophy Association from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences from the University of Zagreb, and the Department of Philosophy of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences from the University of Zagreb. The patrons of the 16th Lošinj Days of Bioethics were the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia and the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County. The Organisation Committee of the Lošinj Days of Bioethics included the President Ante Čović (Zagreb), Chief Secretary Hrvoje Jurić (Zagreb), Administrative Secretary Mira Matijević (Zagreb), and 64 board members, and the Organisation Team of the Student Bioethics Workshop included Luka Janeš, Roni Rengel, Augustin Kvočić, Mihailo Stojanović, Kristian Peter, Ivana Kovačić, and Lidija Knorr.

The solemn opening of the 16th Lošinj Days of Bioethics was held on Monday, May 15th, and it was followed by a plenary lecture about the history, condition, and perspectives of bioethics in Latin America. It was held by renowned Brazilian bio-scientist José Roberto Goldim, the winner of the “Fritz Jahr” Award 2017 for the research and promotion of European bioethics, for the second time given by the Fritz Jahr Documentation Research Centre for European Bioethics at the University of Rijeka. Afterwards, the symposium was held in three parallel sections in Croatian and English language. In its formal tradition, symposium continued to manifest finest example of transdisciplinary approach to solving contemporary issues, and has proven so by a vast amount of discussions oriented around recent rise of troublesome practices. The 68 papers were presented: José Roberto Goldim (Brazil): Bioethics in Latin America; Azra Jaganjac (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Ruken Esra Demirdögen (Turkey): Engineering Ethics; Igor Čatić (Croatia): Medicine Increasingly Surrounded by Technology; Eva Jurković (Croatia): Carebots – Robots as Care Aid for the Elderly
Croatia regarding Constitutionality of the Medical Treatment Law regarding Free Choice of Childbearing; Dragana Denić (Serbia): Euthanasia – a Crossroad or a Labyrinth?; Iva Šokičić (Croatia): Euthanasia – the Right to Life and Death as a Free Choice; Suzana Vuletić, Silvana Karačić, Gordana Pelčić (Croatia): Hetero/auto/nomy in the Context of (Self)Determinism of Biological Testaments; Samir Beglerović, Orhan Jašić (Bosnia and Herzegovina): Euthanasia and Its Understanding in the Tradition of Bosnian-Herzegovinian Muslim Religious Authors; Marija Brdarević, Ivna Kocijan (Croatia): Nurses’ Bioethical Doubts about Voluntary Euthanasia; Ajnija Omanić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Amer Ovčina (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Hajrunisa Čubro (United States of America): Sketches from Life and Ethical Code of Conduct of Health Workers at the Mayo Clinic, with Special Regard to Nursing at the Saint Mary’s Hospital in Rochester; Sonja Kalauz, Marijana Neuberg (Croatia): Bioethical Dimension of Nursing Theories; Velimir Teržić, Marija Teržić (Croatia): Urinary Catheterisation – Dilemmas of Doctor and Patient; Srečko Gajović (Croatia), Anna Lydia Svalastog (Norway): Knowledge Landscapes – Linear and Non-Linear Knowledge Communication in the Digital Society; Anna Lydia Svalastog (Norway): Navigating Knowledge Landscapes and Ethics; Andrej Bogatinoski (Macedonia): Ethical Issues in the Internet of Things; Denis Kos, Lidiija Knorr (Croatia): The Concept of Standpoints in Knowledge Organization; Toni Pustovrh (Slovenia): Scientific Collaboration with Self-Organised and Alternative Research Spaces: The Bioethics of Collaboration between DIY (Bio)Hackerspaces and Public Research Institutions; Chris Agee (United Kingdom): The Contemporary Relevance of Hubert Butler (1900–1991); Sabina V. Paneva (United States of America): Ethical Considerations at the Intersection of Collective Memory, Personal Trauma and Teaching History: Teaching and Learning about Genocide; Sven Hočevar-Potokar (Slovenia): Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine through Time and the Greatest Ethical Controversies; Ana Švogor Šipek, Siniša Opić, Tomislav Krznar (Croatia): The Presence of Bioethical Issues in Education Programmes for Teachers and Educators; Marina Katinić, Damir Velički, Tomislav Krznar (Croatia): Acquaintance with Bioethical Issues in the Population of Students in Teacher Education; Ana Maskalan, Silvia Rogošić (Croatia): Feminist Bioethics and Moral Disgust; Damir Žubčić (Croatia): Why We Need to Learn about the Treatment of Animals; Goran Sunajko (Croatia): Homo Economicus as a Bioethical Issue in the Analysis by Raj Patel; Marko Kos (Croatia): The Other – After the Truth; Nikolina Čavarić (Croatia): How to End Modern Slavery?; Anita Lunić (Croatia): What Bioethics Can Say about Refugees and Immigrants? Peter Singer’s Argumentation and Critique; Mario Jašić, Senad Ćeman (Bosnia and Herzegovina): The Ban on Wearing Hijab in European Convention Law; Teodora Not (Croatia): Intersectoral Cooperation – the Standard of Connecting and Cooperating in Rehabilitation of
Children with Disabilities; Mario Bebek, Marija Brdarević (Croatia): Bioethics and Autonomy of Persons with Disabilities; Marko Marinić (Croatia): Sexuality and Persons with Disability – What Disability Has to Do with Sex?; Amer Ovčina, Sebija Izetbegović, Jasna Bajraktarević (Bosnia and Herzegovina): Organisation Changes in Healthcare System and Ethical Concerns; Robert Doričić (Croatia): Bioethical Standards in the Light of Public Health (Bio)ethics; Maja Miloš (Croatia): The Content and Implementation of Bioethical Standards – Attitudes of the Local Community Representatives (Mali Lošinj, Bakar, Kršan); Aleksandar Racz, Antonio Badurina (Croatia): Bioethischer, Ökologischer und Ökonomischer Ansatz im Hinblick auf Entwicklungsstrategien des Golftourismus in Kroatien am Beispiel der Projekte “Punta Križa” und “Baštijunski Brig”.

The International Student Bioethics Workshop “Abortion: Political Theme, Bioethical Problem” was the 13th student bioethics workshop organized in the context of the programme of Lošinj Days of Bioethics. More than 50 students from various study groups from different scientific fields from the University of Zagreb, Rijeka, Split, Osijek, Koprivnica/Varaždin, Novi Sad, Niš, and Skopje participated in three study days. Except for the Students bioethics workshop, three more relevant events were organized within the manifestation, namely “Presentation of Recent Bioethical Publications”, “Bioethical Café”, and “Round Table”. Traditional presentation of recent bioethical editions took place on Monday at Aurora’s Grand Hall. Twenty-one new bioethical publications (nine books and twelve scientific and professional journals) based in Croatia, France, and Serbia were presented during this round of evening presentation. This year’s Bioethical Café was held on Tuesday and was entitled “Life in Poetry: Death, Loss and Applause”. The guest of the evening was Chris Agee, a poet, essayist, and the editor of the Irish Literary, a magazine based in Ireland. This year, the traditional “Round Table” held on the last day of manifestation dealt with the problem of “Animal lives and human laws”. Presentations were held by Hrvoje Jurić (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb), Tatjana Zajec (The Shelter for Abandoned Animals of the City of Zagreb in Dumovec), and Julija Erhardt (Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb). They spoke about the ways in which these issues were legally regulated, including the principle of animal-animal relations, the animalistic theory and the practice in Croatia, and current changes to Croatian hunting and animal protection laws.

All things considered, 16th Lošinj Days of Bioethics once again showed its protruding relevancy with the width of the topics covered, and a discursive openness to solving problems of modern society through broad scientific assembly.

Lidija Knorr