17th Lošinj Days of Bioethics
(May 20th – May 23rd, 2018 in Mali Lošinj)

The 17th 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 20th – May 23rd, 2018 in Mali Lošinj, Croatia. This year’s Student Bioethics Workshop, organized 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 and Mass Media”. The patrons of the 17th Lošinj Days of Bioethics were the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia and 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 68 members. The organisation team of the Student Bioethics Workshop included Boris Sušnik Bolt, Dora Bukovac, Tamara Drašković, Buga Kranželić, Lena Kuzmanović, David Martić, Kristian Peter, Roni Rengel, Bernard Špoljarić, and Maja Vejić.

Traditionally enchanting, the opening of the 17th Lošinj Days of Bioethics was held on Monday, May 21st, and it was followed by a plenary lecture about the hermeneutical dimension of the bioethical enterprise. It was held by renowned Chilean psychiatrist and bioethicist Fernando Lolas Stepke, a winner of the International Year of Research and Promotion European Bioetics “Fritz Jahr” award for 2018, awarded for the third time 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. The symposium was about the various issues of contemporary society, from the problem of clinical medical practice to global-ecological problems, including some entirely new (bio)ethical topics that debate is about to begin. The following 65 papers were presented: Fernando Lolas Stepke (Chile): The Hermeneutical Dimension of the Bioethical Enterprise; Hrvoje Jurić (Croatia): Integrative Bioethics and Digital Ethics; Predrag Pale (Croatia): Ethics
The International Student Bioethics Workshop “Bioethics and Mass Media” was 14th student bioethics workshop organized as a part of the programme of Lošinj Days of Bioethics. About 40 students from various scientific fields, coming from the University of Zagreb, Osijek, Novi Sad, Skopje and Vienna, participated in the three study days of Workshop.

Except for the Students Bioethics Workshop, three more relevant events were organized within the manifestation: “Presentation of recent bioethical publications”, “BioArt: Interactive Art Workshop ‘Towards the Source of Universal Symbols’”, and “Round Table: Bioethics in Croatia: The State-of-the-Art and Prospects”.

During the presentation of recent bioethical editions, traditionally held on Monday, twelve new bioethical publications were presented on this edition of bioethical publishing. This year the “Round Table” was held on Tuesday. The round table was organized regarding 20th anniversary of the symposium “The Challenges of Bioethics” held on the Island of Cres, August 30 – September 2, 1998, as a part of the 7th Days of Frane Petrić. The presentations were held by Ante Čović (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb), Iva Rinčić and Amir Muzur (Faculty of Medicine, University of Rijeka), Josip Guć (Centre for Integrative Bioethics, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Split), and Hrvoje Jurić (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb). Ante Čović held the lecture about challenges of bioethics and challenges for bioethics. Iva Rinčić and Amir Muzur spoke about reception of Fritz Jahr’s ideas in Croatia and globally, twenty years after their discovery, and about new contributions to the history of bioethics in Europe through discovery of Menico Torchio’s bioethical ideas. Josip Guć spoke about Nikola Visković and the forefathers of bioethics in Croatia, and Hrvoje Jurić spoke about the new paths of bioethics in Croatia. “BioArt” started with a screening of the documentary “Spona” (“Nexus”), based on an art-philosophical experiment, and was followed by a discussion and an interactive workshop of intuitive inscribing into clay.

Considering the fullness of the programme, the 17th Lošinj Days of Bioethics once again showed the width of its sensibility for key social issues, and their participant’s openness to finding proper solutions to their ills.

Lidija Knorr