

3rd Osijek Days of Bioethics

After the two successful conferences held in Osijek, on November 11th and 12th, 2019, the Third Osijek Days of Bioethics were held at the Faculty of Education of J. J. Strossmayer University of Osijek, with the main topic – “Bioethics and Sport”.

Similar to last years, the conference was organized by the Centre for Integrative Bioethics (J. J. Strossmayer University of Osijek), the Faculty of Education (J. J. Strossmayer University of Osijek), the Faculty of Medicine (J. J. Strossmayer University of Osijek), the Croatian Unit of UNESCO Chair in Bioethics (University of Haifa) with the seat at the Faculty of Education (J. J. Strossmayer University of Osijek), the Centre of Excellence for Integrative Bioethics, the Croatian Bioethics Society, the Centre for Integrative Bioethics, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (University of Split), the Centre for Integrative Bioethics (Faculty of Philosophy, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje), and finally the Faculty of Dental Health and Medicine (J. J. Strossmayer University of Osijek).

Vlado Guberac, Rector of the J. J. Strossmayer University, opened the conference. He saluted the efforts of the organizers in giving bioethical topics a voice to be heard across disciplines, together with joint efforts to bring the faculties in joint research and pursuit of knowledge on bioethical issues, especially in such a new research field. Also, Vice-Rector of the University of Zagreb, Professor Ante Čović, who supported the conference from the beginning, spoke about the importance of the integrative approach to bioethics, but also about the efforts in Osijek to form a coherent research community that will address in more detail the challenges in this field. The President of the Organisation Committee of the 3rd Osijek Days of Bioethics, Professor Ivica Kelam, thanked all the participants and expressed his joy that the bioethical community gathered again in Osijek to celebrate scientific research and new accomplishments in the field and to share their results with colleagues and the public, especially on the topics that affect our daily lives, as well as our health and physical activity. It was no wonder that the conference gathered experts from various fields, from medicine to education, philosophy, and ethics, psychology, and kinesiology.

After these introductory notes, the conference started with an exciting keynote lecture by Professor Jim Parry from Czechia, titled *What is wrong with Doping in Sport?*

Professor Parry listed all the usual arguments when it comes to this critical ethical issue in sport, and analyzed them in details, only to debunk them and rearrange them regarding a more reliable and valuable fashion, offering his solution, which was met with an interesting response from the audience during the discussion.

The conference further continued with three parallel sections. In section A, we had the opportunity to listen to four presentations, first one being by Marija Heffer, who presented her findings on the relationship between genes and an advantage in sports in “Genetically Designed Victory”. Vjekoslav Galzina presented “Neural and Mechanical Implants Enhancements”, which is an important issue for the future of Bioethics of Sport. Luka Maršić gave the next presentation on “Movement in Play”, explaining how our own movements communicate with the outside world. Finally, in this section, Ivan and Maja Miškulin gave a presentation entitled “Interconnection between Attitudes toward Doping and Doping Usage”, in which they showed their study on doping usage in sports in Osijek.

In section B the group of authors, Tatjana Bačun, Ivan Lekić, Barbara Bačun, presented the topic of “Physical activity and Sport in Young People with Type 1 Diabetes”, followed by another group of authors led by Dubravka Holik, with the presentation “The Effect of Daily Physical Activity on the Activity of Inflammatory Bowel Diseases for Patients not Taking Therapy”. After that, Ivan Perić presented the topic “Supplementation by Guanidic Acid”. These three presentations gave us unique views on the relationship between medicine, sport, and bioethics, from a more medicine-oriented point of view, which always opens interesting questions in bioethics. Nikolina Lešić then presented the topic “Traumas in Athletes and their Consequences,” which offered us the perspectives on how trauma affects the lives of athletes.

Section C began with Hrvoje Jurić and his presentation “Critique of Sport and Critique of Culture”, in which Jurić offered us his views on relations between these two important notions and how they influence each other in contemporary society. Berislav Čović then presented “Bioethical Issues of Sport as a Physical Activity – Challenges and Controversies”, which offered some thoughts on the main impacts that bioethical topics have on life and education of athletes. Dejan Donev was next to present “Significance of the Bioethics of Sport in Building Autonomous Individual”, with philosophical points of view toward the sport, moral standards, and a critical examination of the philosophy of sport in regards to the autonomy and personal development. Finally, Igor Eterović and Matija Škerbić presented the topic of an exciting title, “Kant, Bioethics and Mountaineering” by approaching some bioethical issues in regards to this sport from a Kantian perspective.

In the afternoon, section A was opened by Dražen Gorjanski with the topic “Protecting Athletes from Violence”, examining ethical and social standards in sports.

Antonio Kovačević presented “Bioethical Views on Mixed Martial Arts”, in which he considered medical, legal, and philosophical perspectives on the justification of self-harm in sports. Edin Branković then presented “The Question of Mental Health as the Question of Modern Sport”, which showed us how the philosophy of sport, psychology, PE, and neuroscience could altogether influence the cultivation of sport as a bioethical sport. A group of authors led by Miloš Marković presented “Parents of Young Athletes as Part of Sport Audience” and showed that not only athletes and sports executives are involved with problems in sport, but that it affects many different participants as well. Željko and Ana Popović with Zoran Malečić had the presentation on “The Ethical Principles of Judo”, in which they examined how this new discipline became popular and how it affects the way of life of those who practice it.

In section B, Zoran Kojčić presented “Care of the Body and Care of the Soul: Bioethical Perspectives”, which offered connections between personal development in physical and mental activities. Nikola Mijatov then presented “Objectification of the Female Body at Sports Events”, which mainly showed us how the so-called cheerleaders were treated in the past and how the perception of them has changed in recent years. Tomislav Nedić offered us some new facts and issues of law in sports in his presentation entitled “Introduction to Sports Law”, while Dina Stefanović closed this section with the presentation “Question of Equality of Biological and Transgender Women in Sport”, in which she gave examples and opened questions on how this issue represents a challenge for contemporary sport competitions.

In the last section of the day, Dajana Bičanić and Maja Brust Nemet opened the section A with “Pedagogical Workshops in Function of Motivating Students’ Social Behaviour” related to the development of prosocial behavior and social competences. Tvrtko Galić presented “Can Sports Umbrella Organizations Have an Impact on Financial Ethics in Sports Clubs”, which raised questions on financial fair play, salary caps, and how money influences sports. Željko Kaluđerović then presented “Cheating in Sport – a Rhetorical Question or Permitted Practice?” with moral questions about the ethics and values of the sport, together with the famous example of Maradona’s goal at the 1986 World Cup. Ivica Kelam and Darija Rupčić Kelam introduced us to the world of sports betting and the problems that arise in society when it goes out of hand, and how pluriperspectivism in bioethics can help in better understanding of the problem, in their presentation “Sports Betting – Innocent Fun or a Significant Threat to the Future of Sports?”. This section was closed by Zvonimir Tomac with a presentation entitled “History of the Development of the Kinesiological Profession in Osijek”, with a local perspective on the need for kinesiological education in the last forty years.

In section B, Bruno Ćurko opened the presentation with views on how animals were treated in different traditional and violent sports, entitled “Bioethical Questions of

Animals in Sport”. This presentation was followed by Josip Guć and his presentation “On Instrumentalization of Human and Non-Human Animals in Professional Sports”, which focused on the amorality of use of animals in sports and how integrative bioethics can help in determining the critical answers to such problems. Luka Janeš then presented “Synthesis of the Sport-Psyche-Life Triad”, where he touched on the connections that these three notions represent for contemporary bioethics. Josip Periša and Jakov Erdeljac spoke about “Political Actions of Athletes at Big Sporting Events”, while Nikolina Koprivnjak presented the work entitled “Ethical Crisis of Professional Sport”. These were two interesting presentations by philosophy students on how professional athletes in our society address social problems.

The second day of the conference offered us three plenary lectures, held by Matija Škerbić, Irena Martinkova, and Evangelos Protopapadakis, after which the round table with professional athletes discussed the topic of veganism in sports.

Matija Škerbić showed us how the philosophy of sports and bioethics of sports have developed in the world and also in Croatia in his plenary lecture “Bioethics of Sport – Past, Present, Future”. Irena Martinkova presented “Unisex Sport: How to Tackle the Binary?”, which showed us how the male/female binary represents a problem in contemporary sports, and the current situation in sports could be modified with so-called mixed or unisex sports. For the final plenary lecture, Evangelos Protopapadakis offered us a Kantian perspective on the morality of doping, which was the main topic of the conference, from the keynote lecture, through presentations within the sections. Protopapadakis examined the critical arguments in the debate and concluded that doping represents a paradigm shift in sports.

At the end of the conference, an interesting debate was held on the topic of “Veganism and Sport: Breaking the Myth of the Necessity of Carnivorousness in Active Sport”. Four professional athletes or sports experts, Damir Mesec, Tihana Majer, Igor Drašković and Mislav Skrepnik, were invited to share their personal and professional views on how and why they became vegan and how did this affect their performance and professional career. Since they come from different disciplines, they all offered their unique experiences and shared them with the audience, followed by a vigorous debate with many different questions. In addition to diet and its impact on the human body, various questions and issues regarding the ethics of veganism arose, and the debate pretty quickly caught the attention of all the audience members interested in topics, pros and cons, criticism, and support.

After the debate, the organizers thanked all the participants, and the conference closed with a lunch for the participants at a local restaurant.

Zoran Kojčić & Ivica Kelam