

INTERDISCIPLINARITY IN THEORY AND PRACTICE

Petra Kolesarić

International Interdisciplinary 1st Congress of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Osijek, November 4th and 5th 2021.

On 4th and 5th November 2021, the first international interdisciplinary congress of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences entitled “Interdisciplinarity in Theory and Practice,” was held. As Zlatko Miliša, Demian Papo and Hrvoje Potlimbrzović emphasized in their introductory text to the bilingual (Croatian and English) book of abstracts they have edited for the occasion, the fundamental mission of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research is to “enhance the cooperation between Departments and Chairs from the fields of humanities and social sciences on the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Osijek, then to improve cooperation between different constituents of the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek from numerous scientific fields, as well as to strengthen and establish cooperation with universities on both national and international level.” Furthermore, the fundamental mission of the Centre, as the three editors state, consists of “bridging the formal division of social sciences and humanities from sciences pertaining to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) as an answer to the 21st century challenges.”

The Centre’s first congress had forty-four participants, including scientists, postdoctoral fellows, and students

from four countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Croatia, and Mexico. There were two official languages of the congress: Croatian and English. Participants were invited to submit their papers for the book of proceedings which will be published during the academic year 2021/2022. The congress took on the hybrid form due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so participants presented their papers either at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Osijek or via *Zoom*.

At the opening ceremony, speeches were given by Osijek-Baranja County prefect Ivan Anušić and Osijek city mayor Ivan Radić, then by full professor Zlatko Miliša, PhD, who was the president of both Organization and Programme Committee of the congress, as well as by the dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Osijek, associate professor Ivan Trojan, PhD. All speakers had reached consensus regarding the importance of interdisciplinary approach in scientific research of contemporary real-world phenomena.

The first day of the congress was opened by Zlatko Miliša and his presentation entitled “Interdisciplinary Approach to the Value Phenomenon,” in which he spoke about interdisciplinarity of values and analysed them in both deductive-theoretical and induc-

tive-empirical manner, while pointing out the significant role of values in education. After that, he made the distinctions between ideals, norms, attitudes, goals, value judgments, value system, lifestyles, and value orientations. Davor Balić's presentation "Miroslav Krleža's Interdisciplinary Approach in Judging Immanuel Kant's Teaching" referred to the work of Miroslav Krleža in terms of his reflections on Kant's opus and his critiques of Kant's work. Also, Balić has shown the connection between Krleža's judgment and interdisciplinarity by accentuating that Krleža criticized Kant from various perspectives, i.e. from the perspective of logic, theory of knowledge and ethics, as well as from historical, political, and artistic perspective. Besides criticism, the moments in which Krleža praised Kant in his work *Dialectical Antibarbarus* were shown as well. Damir Marinić and Ida Marinić in their presentation "Necessity for Multidisciplinarity in a Global World" talked about the processes of globalization that have significantly changed the modern world, and directly influenced the development of interdisciplinarity. Furthermore, they indicated that contemporary world is best described by the acronym VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, Ambiguous). Based on that thesis, they pointed out that the contemporary world phenomena must be viewed from several different perspectives, and concluded that only science can provide us a more comprehensive understanding of them. In his presentation entitled "Interdisciplinary Approach in Studying Consciousness," Nebojša Mudri spoke about the phenomenon of consciousness and various aspects of it. He explained the importance of researching this phenomenon and its aspects from different perspecti-

ves, primarily from the perspective of biology, psychology, cognitive neuroscience, phenomenology, medical sciences, anthropology, linguistics, computer science, physics, etc. Also, Mudri concluded that an interdisciplinary approach in studying consciousness is an absolute necessity, if our goal is to acquire further knowledge regarding that phenomenon.

In the presentation "Analysis of Students' Attitudes Towards *Online Learning* During and After *Lockdown* due to COVID-19 Pandemic" by Juraj Jurlina, Demian Papo, and Hrvoje Potlimbrzović, the views and experiences of students of Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek regarding *online learning* in compulsory circumstances of *lockdown* were given. The research was conducted during June, July and August 2021, and it involved 229 students. Among other results, the authors concluded that despite the statistically significant growth of *perceived ease of use* of tools for *online learning*, the insignificant growth of the average students' attitude towards *online learning* should be attributed to the insignificant growth of the *perceived usefulness* of *online learning*, which is in accordance with the *technology acceptance model*. Considering all of the above, this research offers excellent insight into students' attitudes about *online learning* and is a reference point for further research on that topic. Goran Đurđević and Emiliano Gallaga Murrieta in their presentation "Excavation *Online*. Social Networks and Archaeology in Postcorona Time" presented results of the *Thursday Things & Thoughts* (TTT) project. This project aimed to significantly promote archaeology via social networks and tweets/status during the COVID-19 pandemic and after it.

Authors presented their comparison of the TTT project with other social networks and digital archaeological projects for popular archaeology. The presentation “Application of Robbins’ Model of Organization to the Architecture of the Organization of the School System in the Republic of Croatia” by Nemanja Spasenovski brought important assumptions and indicated the need to connect architecture and educational sciences in the form of better organization. Spasenovski accentuated the importance of quality education which would be founded upon labour market harmonization.

In her presentation “Archival Andragogy and Gerontogogy – Possibilities of Connecting Archival Science and Educational Sciences,” Petra Kolesarić informed of the possibilities of connecting the theoretical and practical part of archival science and educational sciences in terms of developing activities for adults and the elderly in archives. Authors Mate Skoko, Lucija Ivanda, Matea Car, Đana Ravlić, Klara Lucić, Karla Mitar, Lucija Namjesnik, and Nina Kučina in their presentation “Sources of Student Motivation in *Online* Classes During the COVID-19 Pandemic” exposed the results of research concerning the connection between *online* teaching and students’ motivation. The research was conducted using the focus group method via *Zoom*, and results have shown a high degree of variability. The authors concluded that most students who listened to *online* classes had reduced motivation. In the presentation “Connection Between Ecological Attitudes and *YouTube* Consumption” by Nikolina Živić and Vlatka Fapali, the results of a research conducted among students Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of

Osijek were displayed. The research was based on George Gerbner’s cultivation theory and involved 100 students. The authors concluded that there is significant correlation between students’ environmental attitudes and the frequency of consumption of content from *YouTube*’s “lifestyle” category.

On the second day of the Congress, the first presentation entitled “Interdisciplinarity in Lifelong Learning” was held by Sanela Mandić Vidaković, Sara Dodiković, and Tea Čarapović. In their presentation, they spoke about the importance of interdisciplinarity in adult learning and about the possibilities of applying methods from different scientific disciplines in adult learning. Vlasta Svalina, in her presentation “Lifelong Learning Using Mobile Learning in the Republic of Croatia,” put forward results of a survey concerning teacher’s attitudes towards the use of mobile technologies in teaching. The research was conducted on more than 200 primary and high school teachers in the Republic of Croatia, and results have shown that teachers agree that students should be allowed to use mobile devices in class and that they plan to use them in their teaching. Ivana Šustek’s presentation “Perspective of Cooperative Learning in *Online* Teaching” referred to the development of collaborative learning as a phenomenon in which students develop critical thinking, solve problems together, etc. The presentation has also shown the importance and the need for using collaborative learning in distance learning.

Ana Čelik and Zlatko Miliša, in their presentation “A Humanistic Approach to Destigmatization of Marginal Groups,” discussed the question of social exclusion and the impact it leaves



on individual development. Čelik and Miliša also said that this problem has multiple negative influences on the development of the individual and suggested a humanistic approach as a solution. In their presentation “Theory and Practice of Dyslexia in Education,” Helena Dragić and Lucija Škurla explained the importance of early recognition of dyslexia in education. Their presentation included results of a research conducted among students, i.e. future teachers, using the survey method, regarding issues of language proficiency and speech difficulties. Antonija Vukašinić and Monika Mitrović in their presentation “Interdisciplinary Approach to Planning an Individualized Plan in Working with Children with Disabilities” emphasized the need for interdisciplinary approach to education of children with disabilities. Vukašinić and Mitrović claimed that it should be conducted

through cooperation of various professional associates and students’ parents. Author Gabriela Dobsai in her presentation “The Importance of Translating Children’s Literature and its Influence on a Child’s Cultural and Identity Development” highlighted the linguistic and cultural features that appear in translation of children’s literature, with a specific reference to Hungarian minority communities in Croatia. Dobsai underlined the importance of knowing cultural determinants, so that the moral and educational messages of a text do not get lost in translation.

Sergej Filipović and Igor Josipović, in their presentation “Area of Science and Technology in History School Programs and Textbooks,” compared curricula and textbooks for History in high schools before and after the implementation of the curricular reform. Their presentation clarified the difference between curricula and high school textbooks in the domain “Science and Technology.” In the presentation “Professional Orientation as a Precondition for Detecting Interdisciplinary Predispositions,” Irena Kiss presented the data of a research conducted on high school students, which was related to the examination of Gardner’s theory of multiple intelligences. The research has shown that students have little interest in the linguistic and logical-mathematical field, what the author had attributed to the relatively low representation of professional orientation programs. Miljenko Hajdarović in his presentation “Does the New Curriculum Change the Future of Interdisciplinary History Teaching?” exposed his reflections on the possibilities of an increase in interdisciplinarity within the new History curriculum,

based on a comparison of 7th and 8th grade primary school textbooks before and after the reform. Hajdarović also explained the shift in history teaching from a mere political perspective to five different domains, a shift which, in his opinion, certainly contributed to the development of interdisciplinarity in teaching.

The presentation “Between Presentation and Interpretation – the Role of Local Community in Preserving Cultural Heritage” by Marija Završki and Marta Borić Cvenić provided information on examples of good practice in preserving and promoting cultural assets in Slavonija and Baranja. In addition to that, Završki and Borić Cvenić elaborated upon the advantages and limitations associated with the interpretation of cultural heritage in a local community. Ivan Brlić and Anita Bušljeta Tonković in their presentation “Interdisciplinary Project RuraLika: Modernization and (Post) Transition Processes in Rural Areas of Croatia Through a Case Study of Lika Rural Area” presented an interdisciplinary project of rural sociologists in Lika which deals with modernization and (post)transition processes. They explained how they developed a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach aimed at analysing the characteristics and criteria for evaluating general social development of other rural areas of the Republic of Croatia. In his presentation entitled “Educational Implications in Media Presentations of Moral Relativism” Dean Cikovac accentuated the crucial points of influence which mass media establish on education in general. The author explained the way in which the mass media have a negative effect on education and said that it is necessary

to cultivate critical thinking concerning issues in contemporary educational process. The last presentation of the congress was given by Boris Rauš and Iva Buljubašić, on the topic “Social Media vs. Mental Health - FOMO Effect and Dopamine Detox.” They referred to the impact of social networks on the mental health of users and discussed whether dopamine detox is needed not only by individuals but by entire companies as well.

The *International Interdisciplinary 1st Congress of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Osijek: “Interdisciplinarity in Theory and Practice”* was attended by a significant number of speakers from various scientific disciplines and it attracted a large audience on both days. It is important to underline that in addition to already profiled scientists and researchers, students could also participate. This is essential because it allows undergraduate and graduate students to develop and think in the direction of interdisciplinarity. The organization of the congress was impeccable, and the Centre will hopefully continue to organize such and similar events related to various interdisciplinary topics. Until then, the book of proceedings of the first congress are eagerly awaited.