

## *21st Lošinj Days of Bioethics* or how Mali Lošinj once again captured many hearts and minds

(Mali Lošinj, 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023)

After the *Lošinj Days of Bioethics* marked its two-decade-long tradition last year, this year the scientific and cultural manifestation can claim that it has come of age even by American standards. The *21st Lošinj Days of Bioethics* continues to be a successful platform for the international symposium *Integrative Bioethics and the New Epoch*. This year, the event was held from May 14<sup>th</sup> to May 17<sup>th</sup> in, where else, Mali Lošinj. The founders and organizers of the event were the Croatian Philosophical Society, the Croatian Bioethics Society, and the Town of Mali Lošinj. The patron and regular donor once again was the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County, alongside the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia. The Organising Committee was led by its President Ante Čović (Croatia) and also comprised Chief Secretary Hrvoje Jurić (Croatia) and Business Secretary Mira Matijević (Croatia). The committee had 75 members from 13 different countries. This event was covered in the media by the Universitas portal and the specialized bimonthly medical journal Medix.

The *21st Lošinj Days of Bioethics*, in addition to the aforementioned symposium, also included the *18th Student Bioethics Workshop "Bioethics, Environment, and Non-Human Living Beings"*, which comprised a presentation of recent publications in the domain of bioethics and a round table on the topic *Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Humanity*. These events were also supported by the following co-organizers: the Center of Excellence for Integrative Bioethics and the Faculty of Croatian Studies at the University of Zagreb, while the *Student Bioethics Workshop* was co-organized by the Students of Philosophy Association and the Department of Philosophy at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Zagreb. The Organising team of the *Student Bioethics Workshop* was led by Mihael Vrbanac

(Croatia) and also comprised Juraj Bobanović (Croatia), Ana Daria Bokan (Croatia), Ana Klasnić (Croatia), and Lena Rajić (Croatia).

On Sunday evening, after attendees arrived in Mali Lošinj, the *Student Bioethics Workshop “Bioethics, Environment, and Non-Human Living Beings”* commenced at the Aurora Hotel with Igor Eterović’s (Croatia) plenary lecture *Bioethical Inseparability of Human Being and Nature - Example: Mountaineering*. Monday kicked off with the official opening of the meeting and a plenary lecture from the 2022 winner of the “Fritz Jahr” award, Christian Byk from France, entitled *A Bridge to the Future? Bioethical Universalism in the Historical Context*.

The next two days were filled with a series of colorful, interesting, serious, and thought-provoking presentations that were held in three parallel sections in the mornings and afternoons. Student groups, student debate workshops, seminar discussions, and research innovation were also held at the same time. Participants presented their work in Croatian, English, and German. Monday culminated with a presentation of the latest bioethics publications - 10 books by Croatian, German, Albanian, and Slovenian authors were presented, as well as three scientific and professional magazines. The following authors and titles were presented: *Ljetopis Pješčanog okruga*, the Croatian translation of *A Sand County Almanac*, by Aldo Leopold; *Briefwechsel (Correspondence)* by Hans Blumenberg and Hans Jonas; *Wiedergeburt (Rebirth)* by Walter Schweidler; *Gewachsenes und Gemachtes: Philosophische Grundlegungen und Bioethische Perspektiven (The Grown and the Made: Philosophical Foundations and Bioethical Prospects)* by Marcus Knaup; *Bioetička motrišta o mentalnom zdravlju (Bioethical Views on Mental Health)* by Luka Janeš and Štefanija Kožić (Ed.); *Društvo otpada (Waste Society)* by Ivan Perkov; *Filozofija i bioetika planinarenja (Philosophy and Bioethics of Mountaineering)* by Igor Eterović; *Odgoj za životinje: razvoj kritičke misli i bioetičkog senzibiliteta kod djece (Education for Animals: Development of Critical Thinking and Bioethical Sensibility in Children)* by Bruno Ćurko and Josip Guć; *Bioetika mjekësore (Medical Bioethics)* by Bardhyl Ćipi and Admir Sinamati; *Foucaultova kraljevska pot med filozofijo, zgodovino in psihoanalizo (Foucault’s Royal Road between Philosophy, History and Psychoanalysis)* by Eva D. Bahovec. The following journals were also presented: *Nova prisutnost (New Presence) – The First Twenty Years*; the recent issues of *Medix* and *Filozofska istraživanja (Philosophical Investigations)* – the issues on the topic of *Bioethical Thought in Legal Framework*.

The following is a list of the presentations/lectures given by this year’s participants: Dragan Đurić (Croatia): *On the Edge of Life and Death*; Anita Dučkić Sertić, Jelena Zadro, Damjan Kovač (Croatia): *Recovery as an Existential Approach to Life*; Damjan Kovač (Croatia): *Noodynamics as a Possible Path of Postmodern Man*; Danijela De Micheli Vitturi (Croatia): *Humor as Logotherapy Medicine for Improving Resilience*

in *Marital and Family Disputes and Maintaining Mental Health*; Björn Nejadavaz (Germany): *'Biosecurity' through the Prism of Giorgio Agamben's Bio-Political Theory*; Nevena Divac, Nikola Samardžić (Serbia): *Long COVID and Long Populism*; Tijana Trako Poljak, Vladimir Ivanović, Bruno Šimac (Croatia): *Applying the Social-Ecological Systems Approach to Assessing the Quality of Life in Rural Areas: The Example of Croatian RSEs*; Davor Muhvić, Mira Lulić (Croatia): *Challenges of Human Migrations from Pacific Small Island States Caused by Climate Change in International Law*; Ivan Perkov, Fran Miškić (Croatia): *Transport Mobility as a Public Good in Contemporary Society*; Jelena Boneta (Croatia): *Bioethics and Epidemiology: Analysis of the Concept of Quarantine in the Context of John Stuart Mill's Utilitarian Morality*; Marica Marinović Golubić (Croatia): *Reuse of Research Data – a Necessity or a Shortcut?*; Sead Alić (Croatia): *Speech and Silence as Symptoms*; Eva D. Bahovec (Slovenia): *Geophilosophy, Bioethics and the Present Day*; Tamara Kunić (Croatia): *Ethics of Public Communication on News Sites*; Josip Periša (Croatia): *Important Characteristics of the Theory of Contemporary Bioethical Research*; Iva Rinčić, Amir Muzur (Croatia): *Bioethical Topography or How the Seeds of Potterianism Have Been Scattered over Asturias*; Iris Broman, Waldemar Broman (Croatia): *The Idea of the Well-Being of a Living Being Begins with the Consideration of Pleasure and Satisfaction*; Ivana Buljan (Croatia): *Some Questions from Animal Ethics: A Contribution from Classical Chinese Philosophy*; Jakov Erdeljac (Croatia): *Anthropocentric Integrative Bioethics?*; Jan Defrančeski (Croatia): *On Arne Næss' Ecological Holism and Gestalt Ontology*; Josip Guć (Croatia): *The Earth as the Most Oppressed Entity in Paulo Freire*; Igor Eterović (Croatia): *Euro-Mediterranean Attitude Towards the Living and Non-Living Environment through the Prism of Normative Appreciation of the Mountain World*; Michael George (Canada): *A (Modest) Methodological Proposal for Integrative Bioethics (and Beyond)*; Marko Kos (Croatia): *Morally Sound Judgment: Media, Information Literacy and Ethics*; Ines Skelac, Luka Janeš (Croatia): *Wittgenstein's Language Games in the Context of the End of Life*; Matija Vigato (Croatia): *Existence as the Criteria of Moral Considerability*; Matija Mato Škerbić (Croatia): *Why There Is So Little Discussion on the Animals in the Philosophy of Sport?*; Sandra Radenović, Nikola Mijatov (Serbia): *Sport: Playground for homo ludens*; Suzanne Babich (USA–Croatia): *Preparing Agents for Change in the Planet's Interest: The Indiana University Doctoral Program in Global Health Leadership*; Roman Globokar (Slovenia): *Teaching Bioethics in High Schools: Opportunities and Challenges*; Darija Rupčić Kelam (Croatia): *Trauma, Body and Dance*; Vesna Pešić, Eduard Pavlović (Croatia): *Ambients/Ambientations and Mother Marija Krucifiksa Kozulić*; Tomislav Krznar (Croatia): *Issues of Education in the Thinking of Ivan Cifrić*; Lidija Štimac (Croatia): *The Importance of Empathic Distress of Classroom Teachers in the Process of Student Socialization*; Igor Čatić (Croatia): *Hands – Fundamental Tool of Culture*; Aleksandar Racz, Tara Beata Racz, Ljerka Armano

(Croatia): *Physiological and Psychological Effects of the Forest Bathing or Shinrin-yoku (SY) and the Possibility of Its Application as a CAM Method in Preventive Medicine*; Tara Beata Racz, Teodora Not (Croatia): *The Use of Art Therapy as a Complementary Method in Daily Work with People with Intellectual Disabilities at the Center for Rehabilitation Zagreb*; Hrvoje Sertić, Anita Dučkić-Sertić, Ivan Segedi, Marijan Jozić (Croatia): *Is It Ethical to Practice Combat Sports?*; Ivana Zagorac (Croatia): *Poverty, Dehumanizing Practices, and Shame*; Aleksandar Racz, Suzana Kunac, Veljko Kajtazi (Croatia): *Stereotypes and Prejudices about Roma People in Everyday Life: Language Use and Group-Based Jokes*; Ivana Tucak, Anita Blagojević, Laura Vilić (Croatia): *The Future of Abortion Access*; Stijepo Letunić (Croatia): *Economic Laws and the Bioethical Problem of Technology Development in Conditions of Mere Existence*; Ivica Kelam, Ivan Včev (Croatia): *Bioethical Aspects of the Influence of Longtermism on Elon Musk's Life Philosophy*; Marijana Kolednjak (Croatia): *Thoughtful Aging*; Frano Barbir (Croatia): *Ethical Dilemmas of Energy Crisis and Energy Transition*; Marija Selak Raspudić (Croatia): *More Effective Environmental Protection: Can Croatia Dictate Trends or Is It Doomed to Wait for European Regulations?*; Iva Rinčić, Amir Muzur (Croatia): *A Plea for the (Bio)ethics of Space: A case Study of the Mrtvaška Bay*; Saša Zavrtnik, Jelena Loborec, Damir Žubčić (Croatia): *Big Climate Changes and Tiny Honey Bees*; Walter Schweidler (Germany): *Gabe und Gemeinwohl: Interkulturelle Perspektiven*; Ivo Džinić (Croatia): *Kulturkritisches Potenzial des Mythos*; Katica Knezović (Croatia): *Bioethische Herausforderungen bei der Aufarbeitung der Folgen der erklärten Coronavirus-Pandemie SARS-CoV-2*; Silvana Pavlinović, Gordana Pelčić, Suzana Vuletić (Croatia): *Bioethical Aspects of Medical Tourism*; Jelena Zadro (Croatia): *Body Dysmorphic Disorder – Contraindication for Cosmetic Surgery?*; Velimir Terzić, Maria Magdalena Terzić (Croatia): *Percutaneous Cystostomy from the Angle of Bioethics*.

Tuesday brought about another two-part plenary lecture, this time by Hrvoje Jurić (Croatia) and Marcus Knaup (Germany/Croatia). They honored the life and work of Hans Jonas (1903-1993) with their topic *Integrative Philosophy of Life of Hans Jonas: Retrospect and Prospect*. Wednesday, the last day of the conference, was marked by a rousing and somewhat disturbing round table on *Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Humanity*, which included three presentations in English and four in Croatian, and certainly encouraged many to think about what was until recently only seen and experienced in Sci-Fi films. The following presentations were given: *The Role of Bioethics in Human – AI Interaction* by Dominik Mikić (Germany/Croatia); *Bioethical Complexity of Artificial Intelligence* by Luka Perušić (Croatia); *Doctor – the Last Human in Modern Medicine?* by Maja Vejić (Croatia); *Taming the Unicorn: The Limits of Using Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence* by Predrag Zima (Croatia); *Smart Cities: The Road to Utopia or Dystopia?* by Ivan Perkov and Stjepan Krovinić (Croatia); *Using Explainable Artificial Intelligence to Reach ChatGPT's*

*Full Potential* by Luka Poslon (Croatia) and *Artificial Intelligence in Medicine – quo vadis?* by Luka Fotak (Croatia).

Students partook in seminar groups on the following subjects: *Bioethics and New Media*, *Animals in Industry*, *The Rights of Non-Human Living Beings*, *Bioethics, and the Environment*. The following student workshops were held: *Trash & Art*, *Bioethics, Environment and Non-Human Living Beings* (with an Acknowledgment ceremony), and *Research Inovatorium: Introduction to Writing an Interdisciplinary*. As part of the 21<sup>st</sup> *Lošinj Days of Bioethics*, a photo exhibition *Concrete Sleepers: “Brutal” Utopia, Ethics and Aesthetics of Buildings in Osijek* was organized by two authors, Croatian high school students Ivan Kelam Rupčić and Fran Andrić.

The number of participants at this international event did not disappoint once again. Eighty scientists and experts from fifteen different fields of study and research presented their work, and forty students from ten faculties participated in the conference. They came from seven countries: Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia, Germany, France, the USA, and Canada. All this is confirmed not only by an interdisciplinary, but also by a multi and transdisciplinary, and especially, multi-perspective environment that year after year shows the broadness of the concept of integrative bioethics proudly concentrated in such a small but beautiful place, Mali Lošinj.

At the end of this review, and from the introduction of the Book of Abstracts of the 21<sup>st</sup> *Lošinj Days of Bioethics*, which was beautifully put together by its editors Hrvoje Jurić and Jan Defrančeski and published by the Croatian Philosophical Society, the message of Ante Čović who wrote: “Bioethics is much more than a new scientific or academic discipline, it has become a “sign of the age”, a special sign that marks the turn of epochs of the world history. ... The scientific-cultural conference *Lošinj Days of Bioethics* should be evaluated according to the highest scale of contribution to the spiritual establishment of the new epoch. ... The *Lošinj Days of Bioethics* in synergy with other regular conferences ... has made Croatia a geographical and spiritual center of European bioethics and a place of developmental shifts in global bioethics. The scientific-cultural conference *Lošinj Days of Bioethics* is central as the principal gathering place for bioethicists in this part of Europe” stands out.

**Saša Zavrtnik**