

The 21st Rijeka Days of Bioethics

Urban Bioethics: From Smart to Living Cities - Bioethical Debate, Reflections and Standards

(May 17th – May 18th, 2019 in Rijeka)

The oldest bioethical event in Croatia and one of the oldest in the region, *The 21st Rijeka days of bioethics*, was organized by the University of Rijeka Foundation (Rijeka, Croatia) and co-organized by the University of Rijeka, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Social Sciences and Medical Humanities, UNESCO Chair on Social Sciences and Medical Humanities, University of Rijeka, Faculty of Health Studies, Department of Public Health, Fritz Jahr, Documentation and Research Centre for European Bioethics, Centre of Excellence for Integrative Bioethics and Croatian Bioethical Society. This year's organization of the conference was sponsored with the grant coming from the Schwab Charitable Fund.

According to the aim to upgrade the interdisciplinary and trans-sectoral approach to modern bioethical topics, this year's conference was dedicated to urban bioethics, from which the topics, as the President of the Scientific Board, Iva Rinčić, stressed, "so far remained on the margins of bioethical interest, despite its potential".

After opening ceremonies and welcome speeches held by Tomislav Rukavina, Dean of the University of Rijeka, Faculty of Medicine and Iva Rinčić, President of the Scientific Board, participants gave an impetus to urban bioethics by focusing on the entire integrated city body, its health, happiness and sustainability, thus going beyond traditional healthcare topics within the city and introducing new categories (architecture, culture, energy, environment and city landscapes, urban health, traffic, safety, etc.).

The first of the 13 presentation was focused on the *Urban Ethics in the Age of Planetary Urbanisation*. Jeffrey Chan (Singapore University of Technology and Design, Singapore) discussed the basic tenets of urban ethics, and examined a handful of focal points related to the idea that most of us live in an urban environment of our

own making and that destiny has become an urban responsibility. Under the topic *From Bioethical Standards to Urban Bioethical Standards: Rationale, Strongholds and Aims*, Iva Rinčić (University of Rijeka / University of Rijeka Foundation, Croatia) presented the rationale of bioethical standards, followed by a proposal for developing a list of urban bioethical standards in specific urban-related categories. The base of the standards are the European Bioethics in Action project that ended in 2017, resulting in a list of general bioethical standards related to animals, plants and human health. Michael Cheng-tek Tai (Chungshan Medical University, Taiwan), under the topic *Future Urban Bioethics Standards from a Holistic Point of View*, tried to suggest the kind of urban centre that is bioethically viable not only in terms of hardware construction, but also the software services that this hardware provides, and to give a list of basic standards for a viable urban bioethics based on the essence of bioethics as defined by Fritz Jahr. Unfortunately, Hans-Martin Sass (Georgetown University, United States of America / Ruhr University, Germany / Renmin University, Peking / Peking Union Medical College, China) was prevented from arriving but he submitted his written report, which has been distributed to the participants.

Space and Ethos: The Inextricable Cultural Bi-pole of Urban Bioethics occupied Kostas Theologou (National Technical University of Athens, Greece) in his presentation. He stated that the city is a prominent space for deploying citizens' codes of conduct, taking into account the particularities of all groups, in order to render an urban environment worth living in for all city dwellers. Artificial intelligence humanities occupied Hyeong Ju Kim and Chan Kyu Lee (both from the Chung-Ang University, South Korea) through the presentation *A Groundwork of the Artificial Intelligence Humanities* with the aim to present humanistic suggestions into our lives and academia regarding how humans will live in smart cities surrounded by artificial intelligence technology. Dejan Mumović (University College London, United Kingdom), presented two aspects of academic activities: a) the introduction of bioethical principles in the education of a new generation of building industry professionals, and b) the role of bioethics in understanding the interactions between the built environment and health, human well-being, productivity, energy use and climate change. Presentation was under the title *Smart Buildings and Bioethics: Competence, Integrity and Responsibility*. Lisa Schweitzer (University of California, United States of America) continued under the topic *Locational Privacy and the Smart City* with the revisiting Nissenbaum's premise that locational privacy is critical to a right to privacy. She argues that of all the potential ethical concerns in the bioethics of the smart city, most derive from questions about whether individuals who encounter and use these technologies truly consent to having their locational information disclosed, collected, analysed and sold. Dina Šimunić and Srećko Gajović (both University of Zagreb, Croatia) introduced the topic *The Smart Innovative City*. Ji Won Shim

(Chung-Ang University, South Korea) takes the participants through the topic *The Minimalist Robot Form in Smart Cities*, and together with the Sun Yong Byun (Seoul National University of Education, South Korea) through the topic *The Study of Ethical Issues Involving Surgical Robots in Urban Bioethics*. Tin Oberman (University College London, United Kingdom) talked about *Urban Soundscapes*, and presented the project “Soundscape Indices” which features interdisciplinary analyses of urban acoustic environments with the aim of effectively measuring their perceptual impact as a basis for environmental design. Vanja Vasiljev (University of Rijeka, Croatia) gave the presentation on the *Urban Health* with the focus on health-related policies regarding sustainable urban planning. Gilberto Marzano (Rezekne Academy of Technology, Latvia / Janusz Korczak University in Warsaw, Poland / Ecoistituto del Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italy), in his presentation *Crowdsourcing: A Challenge for Citizens’ Participation*, gave us an illustration of the opportunities and issues related to crowd-based applications. Under the title *A Bioethics Workshop: An Urban-Cultural Project*, Hanna Hubenko (Sumy State University, Ukraine) proposed the creation of an integrative platform for bioethics (InPlatBio) which will be implemented in the online and offline life of cities.

After all presentations, the 4th Annual Fritz Jahr International Award for Research and Promotion of European Bioethics ceremony was held at the Fritz Jahr Documentation and Research Centre for European Bioethics at the Faculty of Health Studies, University of Rijeka, Croatia. This year’s winner is Professor Michael Chengtek Tai from Taiwan. The final part of the *21st Rijeka days of bioethics* was a study trip to Istria and “the smallest city in the world” – Hum, where all participants had the opportunity to socialize, exchange ideas, and discuss in a less official atmosphere.

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