

Bioethics and Aporia of Psyche

Papers collected for the aim of the guest editor's editorial issue titled „Bioethics and Aporia of Psyche“, are written repercussions of the presentations held in the frame of the 5th International Transdisciplinary Symposium „Bioethics and Aporia of Psyche“. The manifestation was held on the 7th and 8th of May 2021 and was organised by the Centre of Excellence for Integrative Bioethics, Croatian Bioethics Society and other partners. In the spirit of integrative bioethics, the significance and the goal of the symposium was to connect various corpora of knowledge and experience by pluriperspective and interdisciplinary approach – ranging from philosophy, sociology, law, anthropology, psychology and social work, through neuroscience and psychiatric medical practice, to different cultural perspectives – to “shed light” on difficulties connected to the mental health, endeavouring to provide a concrete solution for the given purpose. Corresponding to previous years' manifestations, it was marked by the diversity of the program, a multitude of perspectives, international speakers, inspiring discussions, and exceptional attendance.

The coronavirus pandemic (SARS-Cov-2) and the accompanying explosion – historically the most well-known disease – COVID-19 – have brought human society and culture to horizons of hitherto unknown proportions. Despite the general panic mediated by ignorance, the permanent media presence, and countless scientific hypotheses and theses, conspiracy theories, misconceptions and hasty conclusions, at the end of 2021, this pandemic still seems like a newly opened book. For the time being, we can be sure that it entails multiple negative repercussions towards all pores of sociability and culture, above all irreversibly corroding national health systems. The unavoidable stream of the issue in question is the mental health of the beings whose importance is often neglected in the context of positioning within the various pillars of prevention against the spread of infection. Nevertheless, the “psyche-virulent” situation in the global context is very much present and on the rise, taking on enormous proportions, raising the question of the necessity of more intensive trans-disciplinary implementation of the themes of mental health and the involvement of psychologists, psychiatrists and sociologists in the radius of interdisciplinary teams in charge of defence against the spread of pandemics.

The 5th International Transdisciplinary Symposium Bioethics and Aporia of Psyche was held in a virtual environment just like the year before, and considering this jubilee “ceremonial” edition, we wanted to resonate the celebratory optimistic colours of the salutogenic approach to mentality, health and disease, destigmatisation of the

psychiatry patients and psychiatric activity overall – on the way to the integrative-bioethical horizon of the transdisciplinary future of physical and spiritual synthesis between the existing beings. In addition, within several round tables, plenary presentations, workshops, and one student debate, topics of virtualisation of the human psyche, mental health strategy in the Republic of Croatia, achievements and challenges of online psychotherapy and counselling, the realisation of people through social networks, phenomenological bases of pandemic issues and many other actualities have also been discussed. However, the basic goal of this online conference was to provide adequate public space for open dialogue, connecting various experts, persons with mental issues, enthusiasts and civil associations that deal with mental health issues, care for people with mental challenges of altered states of consciousness, destigmatisation of psychiatry and psychiatric patients and responsibility towards the future of life *per se*, united by the synthesis of bioethical sensibility and integrative thinking as a stronghold for the constitution of orientational knowledge, inherent in the orientational discipline of integrative bioethics.

This special topic issue contains four articles. Two of them are in English and two of them in Croatian. Susi Ferrarello, in her article “The Normative Space of Resilience”, provided a way for reflecting on the normative space of resilience with the goal of creating a fruitful cross-disciplinary dialogue on well-being and health. Ivica Kelam and Kristina Dilica prepared a topic “Bioethical Aspects of the Conspiracy Theories Impacts to the Combat Against the COVID-19 Pandemics in Croatia.”, and Brazilian researches Tatiana Benevides Magalhães Braga, Demétrius Alves de França, Marciana Gonçalves Farinha, Alessandro de Magalhães Gemino, Bárbara Penteadó Cabral wrote on the Brazilian experience regarding the clinical solutions performed in non-conventional settings. Finally, Vanja Novaković, Tanja Todorović, Darija Rupčić Kelam and Luka Janeš, in a topic titled “Crisis of the Body: Ambivalentions of the Postmodern Subjectivity Modalities”, evaluated the body issue through the art, philosophy and psychotherapy perspectives.

Luka Janeš