20th Lošinj Days of Bioethics

Mali Lošinj, 15th–18th May 2022

The 20th international scientific and cultural event Lošinj Days of Bioethics was organized by the Croatian Philosophical Society, Croatian Bioethics Society, and the Town of Mali Lošinj, and co-organized by the Centre of Excellence for Integrative Bioethics and the Faculty of Croatian Studies, University of Zagreb. The manifestation was held from May 15th to May 18th, 2022 in Mali Lošinj, Croatia. This year’s Student Bioethics Workshop, organized by the Students of Philosophy Association and co-organised by the Department of Philosophy of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, was focused on the topic “Freedom and Health”. The patron of the 20th Lošinj Days of Bioethics was Primorje-Gorski Kotar County. The Organisation Committee of the Lošinj Days of Bioethics included President Ante Čović (Croatia), Chief Secretary Hrvoje Jurić (Croatia), Business Secretary Mira Matijević (Croatia), and 75 other Members. The organisation team of the Student Bioethics workshop included Ana Daria Bokan (Croatia), Ana Klasnić (Croatia), Juraj Bobanović (Croatia), and Mihael Vrbanc (Croatia).

On Monday, May 16th, after the opening ceremony and welcoming speeches of the 20th Lošinj Days of Bioethics, Hrvoje Jurić (Croatia) held the plenary lecture entitled “First Twenty Lošinj Days of Bioethics”. Jurić’s plenary lecture was followed by a round table discussion entitled “Croatia and GMO: From the Cres Appeal to the Croatian Parliament Declaration. On the Occasion of the Adoption of the Declaration on the Alps-AdriaticDanube Region Free of GMO”. The following papers were presented during the round table: Ante Čović (Croatia): Croatia and GMO: From the Cres Appeal to the Croatian Parliament Declaration; Marijana Petir (Croatia): Croatia – GMO-Free Country; Ivica Kelam (Croatia): Regulating the New Gene-Editing Techniques in Agriculture on the Level of EU – State-of-the-Art and Perspectives; and Valerije Vrček (Croatia): GMO in Times of Pandemic. On Tuesday, May 17th, the jubilee edition of the scientific-cultural conference Lošinj Days of Bioethics conveniently opened with the “Plenary session: Anniversaries”. During the plenary
Bebek (Croatia): Mentoring in Teaching – Education as a Bioethical Issue of ‘I’ or ‘We’;
Kristina Dilica, Dora Grejza, Ivica Kelam (Croatia): Bioethical Sensibility in the Cross-Curricular Topics in Primary School;
Ivan Perkov, Luka Janeš (Croatia): Impressions, Landmarks and Conclusions – Course “Integrative Bioethics, Environment and Society”;
Sunčana Roksandić, Ksenija Turković (Croatia): Bioethics in the Approach to Teaching Medical Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb – Experience and Challenges;
Croatian Students’ Attitudes about Genetic Technology and Genetically Modified Food; Stjepan Štivić (Slovenia): On the Concept of Improvement in Bioethical Debates: Analysis, Distinctions and Clarifications; Julija Erhardt, Ivana Greguric, Nataša Jokić-Begić, Eva Jurković, Anita Lauri Korajlija, Ana Maskalan, Iris Sarajlić-Vuković, Marija Selak Raspudić, Dubravka Švob Štrac (Croatia): Ethical Aspects of Human Pharmacological Enhancements: Opinions and Attitudes of Students at the University of Zagreb; Mario Bebek, Marija Brdarević, Zrinka Pranjić Kozlek (Croatia): Ethical Aspects of Cyborgization and the Concept of Transhumanism from the Perspective of a Person with a Disability; Aleksandar Racz (Croatia): Roma Women as Victims of Intimate Partner Violence; Danijela De Micheli Vitturi (Croatia): The Purpose of Natural Family Planning in Demographic Renewal of Croatia (Logotherapeutic Approach); Teodora Not, Martina Zelić, Blaženka Filić Vulin (Croatia): Encouraging Innovation in Employing the Persons with Intellectual Disabilities; Anita Dučkić Sertić, Hrvoje Sertić (Croatia): Resilience – a Spiritual Resource for Families Facing Difficult Life Situations Caused by Global Unrest and Insecurity; Velimir Teržić (Croatia): Circumcision between Medicine and Religion; Azra Jaganjac (Bosnia and Herzegovina): Dress Ethics; Jakov Erdeljac (Croatia): Bioethical Epoch: The Dialectical Process between Anthropocentrism and Biocentrism; Ivana Buljan (Croatia): I Don’t Wanna Be Your Dog: Daoist Approach to Animals; and Iris Broman, Vedran Đambić, Waldemar Broman (Croatia): Purpose and Welfare of Laboratory Animals Regarding Animal Usage, Legislation, and Global Organizations Concerned with Animal Welfare Issues.

The 17th Student Bioethics Workshop dedicated to the topic “Freedom and Health”, organised as part of the programme of 20th Lošinj Days of Bioethics, started on Sunday, May 15th, 2022. After the opening ceremony and welcoming speeches, the Workshop started with “Bioethics & Chill: Screening of a documentary film and discussion”. About 45 students from various scientific fields, coming from the University of Osijek, Zadar, and Zagreb, participated in the three study days of the Workshop. Over these three days, apart from presenting their own papers, the students participated in three smaller workshops: (I) “Cyber Suicide”; (II) “Sexuality and Health”; and (III) “Research Inovatorium: Introduction to Writing an Interdisciplinary Paper”.

Except for the Student bioethics workshop, three other relevant events were organised as part of the manifestation: (I) “Presentation of recent bioethical publications”; (II) “Dance workshop ‘Shadow Dance’ by Darija Rupčić Kelam”; and (III) “Concert: Teofilović Brothers”.

During the presentation of recent bioethical publications, traditionally held on Monday, the ten new following publications were presented: Journal Socijalna Ekologija [Social Ecology] – First Thirty Years; Luka Janeš (ed.): Integrativna bioetika i aporije psihe [Integrative Bioethics and Aporia of Psyche]; Matija Vigato (ed.):

Darija Rupčić Kelam’s dance workshop “Shadow dance” brought together participants from the Lošinj Days of Bioethics, and students from the Student Bioethics Workshop. During the Workshop, Darija Rupčić Kelam emphasized dance as a remedy for psychosomatic and mental problems caused by a pandemic state of emergency.

However, the highlight of the 20th Lošinj Days of Bioethics was certainly the Teofilović Brothers concert, which was organized in collaboration with the Mali Lošinj Tourist Board, Museum of Apoxyomenos, Croatia Records, and the Serbian National Minority Council of the Town of Mali Lošin. The concert, once again, confirmed that the Lošinj Days of Bioethics are not only a respectable scientific but also an important cultural event.

In conclusion, bearing in mind a large number of plenary lectures, presented papers, and workshops, as well as the diversity and relevance of their topics, we can safely say that the jubilee 20th Lošinj Days of Bioethics was one of the most successful in the 20 years of its existence. This can only leave us wondering what the next 10 years of the Lošinj Days of Bioethics will bring to this large academic and bioethical community.

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