

5th Bioethics Days in Osijek – Bioethics and human rights

(Osijek, 7th–8th November 2022)

Human rights as a pressing issue have been looming over humanity since ancient times. What are human rights? Where is their limit, and what is the limit? What is moral, and what is not? How can we define human freedoms? These are some of the questions that humanity has repeatedly asked for centuries because the answers change with time. The struggles for human rights may not be as frequent or visually identical as those a hundred years ago, but over the past three years, we have faced numerous challenges that have shaken the idea and definition of human rights in general. From the virus to the war, modern mankind has found itself in front of walls that they still jump over, and in doing so, rights, identity, and freedoms are easily lost, and the aforementioned questions are raised again. Bioethics is a science that focuses on the study as a whole. It directly deals with the rights that come with life, which is why it is precisely bioethics that can try to answer the numerous questions of ethics, morality, and human rights that arise today. Being a humanist today is a challenge, as is how to encourage, develop and preserve that humanity be the basis of new research under current social circumstances. Human rights should be shown throughout history to see their reflection in the present to create a future based on it. Thus, the topic of human rights opens up a wide area for various presentations, analyses, reviews, and discussions.

The 5th Annual Osijek Days of Bioethics were held at the Faculty of Education on November 7 and 8, and the central theme was “Bioethics and Human Rights”. This year the Center for Integrative Bioethics of the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, the Faculty of Education of the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, and the Osijek unit of the International Department of Bioethics also organized the 5th Osijek Days of Bioethics on the premises of the Faculty of Education of

the Josip Juraj Strossmayer at the University of Osijek. Co-organizers of the event were the Scientific Center of Excellence for Integrative Bioethics, the Academy of Arts and Culture of the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, the Faculty of Medicine of the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, the Faculty of Kinesiology of the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, the Faculty of Dental Medicine and Health of the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek in Osijek, the Faculty of Law of the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, the Croatian Bioethical Society, the Center for Integrative Bioethics of the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Split and the Center for Integrative Bioethics of the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of St. Cyril and Methodius in Skopje.

The vice dean for teaching at the Faculty of Educational Sciences, Lidija Bakota, solemnly opened the 5th Osijek Days of Bioethics and emphasized the following in her speech: “I believe that scientists will also think about the rights of all living beings, especially the rights of those who are weak and vulnerable, who cannot fight for their rights, and for which we are all called upon to act as their advocates”. The president of the Organizing Committee of the 5th Osijek Days of Bioethics, Ivica Kelam added that human rights are always a hot topic, not only in bioethics: “Alongside the hosts, there are scientists from Macedonia and Serbia who will reflect on the position of man in the 21st century and his rights and freedoms.” A wide range of experts will think together about the relationship between bioethics and human rights, given that they are always relevant, like the current war in Ukraine. One of the main goals of bioethics is to preserve humanity towards every living being”. The right to health is one of the fundamental human rights in the plenary presentation. The right to health - comprehensiveness and (civil) legal protection were emphasized by Tomislav Nedić from the Faculty of Law. In his lecture on the analytical and teleological treatment of the (subjective) right to health, as one of the fundamental rights at the intersection of law and bioethics, Tomislav Nedić covered the perspectives of legal philosophy, bioethics, and civil law. The plenary lecture was followed by work in sections where about 30 presentations were presented. The second day of the conference began with the second plenary presentation titled “On the Concept of Human Rights and Confucian Values”, delivered by Ivana Buljan from the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb. In her presentation, Buljan referred to the fundamental differences in understanding the concept of human rights in China compared to the Western concept of human rights.

This year's presentations were divided into thematic and problem-related sections, which were held simultaneously on both days. The lectures held in the first section were: “The logical necessity of linking the Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights with integrative bioethics” (Dejan Donev), “Human rights and animals” (Boris Bakota), “Bioethical sensibility towards the status of animals and their

rights” (Matea Hiršinger, Ivica Kelam, Ivana Vitković) “Everyday militarization of life: girls in armed conflicts” (Darija Rupčić, Ivica Kelam) and “Human rights in the context of cultural diversity” (Ivo Džinić). In the second section, the following lectures were held: “Biopolitical conditions of freedom and Kierkegaard’s existential method” (Risto Solunčev), “Children’s right to music” (Ana Popović), “Bioethical foundations of human rights” (Željko Kaluđerović, Zorica Kaluđerović Mijartović), “Preservation of identity and cultural heritage in Rašćica in a bioethical context” (Ljubica Nedić, Emina Berbić Kolar) and “Philosophical interpretation of Kafka’s novel *The Process*” (Jan Defranceski). The third section included: “The right to raise and educate children of SOS Children’s Villages of Croatia in inclusive primary schools” (Krunoslava Duka, Vesnica Mlinarević), “Ethics of research in social sciences - respect for the right to anonymity” (Snježana Dubovicki, Anamarija Kanisek), “Assessment and attitudes of primary school teachers about children’s rights” (Loreta Kovačević) and “Ethics in research of the deaf community” (Lidija Šmit Brleković). The third section also included the following lectures: “Humor as an expression of human rights and freedom during the Holocaust” (Valerija Turk Presečki), “The right to freedom from the perspective of Maria Montessori” (Dora Grejza, Ivica Kelam), “Human rights - rights of children with developmental disabilities” (Marijana Kopljar, Domagoj Kopljar), and “Alternative schools: the right to a different education” (Tomislav Topolovčan). In the fourth section, the following lectures were held: “Natural science extracurricular activities as an incentive for creativity development” (Nikolina Vidović, Tonka Vekić, Martina Galeković), “The ethics of involving students as agents during live classes with a hybrid human-tablet avatar model (T-HHMA)” (Saša Duka, Ružica Kolar Šuper, Zdenka Kolar Begović), “Entrepreneurial naturalists as a new perspective of upbringing and education for sustainable development” (Nikolina Vidović, Janja Lučić, Tonka Vekić), “Cultural heritage as a fundamental human right” (Vesna Zlatarević) and “The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment: declarative or real social value?” (Ivan Perkov). The fifth section included the following lectures: “Human rights in works for complete reading in elementary school” (Kristina Dilica, Ivica Kelam), “Play and the right to play” (Lidija Štimac, Darija Rupčić Kelam, Ivica Kelam), “The notion of responsibility and human rights in the context of technological development” (Ana Daria Bokan, Josip Periša), “The right of Croats to live in Bosanska Posavina and the preservation of tradition on the example of the village of Tolisa” (Emina Berbić Kolar, Ljubica Nedić) while “Bioethical sensibility and the rights of psychiatric patients” (Luka Janeš) concluded the first day of the symposium. On the second day, after the plenary lectures, the following lectures were given: “Inclusion of students with disabilities in the teaching of Music Culture” (Julijana Jukić), “Does the education system respect the rights of children with disabilities?” (Kristina Dilica,

Martina Galeković) and “Political-ideological orientation of Croatian feature films in the 1990s” (Marija Živković). In the second section, the following lectures were held: “Scientific bullying through echo factors and quartiles: human rights at risk due to “academic excellence”” (Ksenija Romstein), “Limitations of the freedom of testamentary disposition in the 21st century” (Dubravka Klasiček), “Transhumanism and human rights” (Ivan Včev), and “Artificial intelligence and the preservation of human rights” (Vjekoslav Galzina, Ella Rakovac Bekež). The final discussion before the closing of the symposium received highly positive reactions from all participants, where they emphasized how the 5th Osijek Days of Bioethics provided an overview of current issues in the sphere of human rights. In the final discussion, it was suggested that a student section ought to be introduced at the next Bioethics Days in Osijek since the students of the Faculty of Educational Sciences showed a great interest in attending the lectures and participating in the discussions. This year’s 5th Bioethics Days in Osijek brought together a record number of six faculties from the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University in Osijek that participated in the organization of the meeting, thus clearly showing that bioethics is well accepted in Osijek and Slavonia.

The exhibition of landscape astrophotography “Croatia under the stars” by photographer Branko Nađ enriched this year’s Bioethics Days in Osijek. The exhibition presented photographs of night landscapes at famous Croatian tourist and historical locations, such as the Plitvice Lakes, the Cetina springs, Jasenovac, Cape Kamenjak, Motovun, and the Pag salt fields. Branko Nađ continuously records the night sky in RAW format, choosing nights when there is no moon or recording the moon itself, following the weather forecast. It uses applications with which you can plan in advance the setting and rising of the Sun, the Moon, the position of the Milky Way, and meteor showers, and thanks to many sleepless nights, it provides us with an unforgettable view of the sky and stars above some of the most beautiful parts of Croatia.

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