

CONFERENCE ON THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF ANTHROPOLOGY – WORLD ANTHROPOLOGIES AND PRIVATIZATION OF KNOWLEDGE: ENGAGING ANTHROPOLOGY IN PUBLIC Hotel Dubrovnik Palace, Dubrovnik, Croatia, 4–9 May 2016

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From 4th to 9th May 2016 one thousand anthropologists and archaeologists attended the biennial conference of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) held in Dubrovnik, Croatia this year. The organizers of the meeting brought the social responsibility of anthropology into spotlight this time. The fundamental questions that the more than six hundred presentations focused on were how professionals could share their findings with general public in the fields of cultural anthropology, ethnography, physical anthropology and archaeology, and how they could spread knowledge as widely as possible. This not only means presenting and publishing the findings of research conducted on taxpayers' money. The organizers have realized that the research results of scholars practicing anthropology and related disciplines may help solve the most pressing problems of our time. These include, for example, preserving monuments at World Heritage Sites, and understanding migrations or the history of diseases of our age.

From the colourful and diverse program (see: <http://iuaes2016.com/program/>) we highlight a few sessions here, the presentations of which we had the opportunity to listen to. The panel titled *Cultural patterns in prehistory* (organizers: Marko Dizdar, Ivor Janković, Daria Ložnjak Dizdar; Institute for Anthropological Research, Zagreb; Croatian Anthropological Society; Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Ljubljana and Association KULA) focused on the preliminary results of several recently started archaeological research programs. These include the ERC funded BIRTH project (*Births, mothers and babies: prehistoric fertility in the Balkans between 10000–5000 BC*) of the University of

Belgrade aimed at a better understanding of Neolithic demographic transition in Europe. In addition to the research projects of the Croatian Institute of Archaeology studying Late Bronze Age cremation burials and Celtic Romanization from new aspects, we learnt about the investigations of the Zagreb Institute for Anthropological Research conducted with American cooperation. The “Lendület/Momentum Mobility” Research Group of the Institute of Archaeology of the HAS RCH also announced their first-year research findings, such as the first series of radiocarbon dates of Bronze Age cremations in Hungary. (Fig. 1)

New directions in bioarchaeology were presented by speakers in the *Recent Advances in Bioarchaeology* panel (organizers: Ivor Janković, Mario Novak and Mario Šlaus, Institute for Anthropological Research, Zagreb; Croatian Academy of Sci-



Fig. 1: The opening slide of the presentation by Gabriella Kulcsár, András Czene, Szilvia Fábrián, Julia Giblin, Tamás Hajdu, Kitti Köhler, Róbert Patay, Géza Szabó, Vajk Szeverényi, and Viktória Kiss

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ences and Arts, Zagreb). The presentations covered topics varying widely by time and space. In addition to the most up-to-date analytical methods (stable isotope analysis, DNA, etc.), the results of traditional anthropological and paleopathological investigations were demonstrated. Their common goal was to uncover the health status, dietary habits, social relations, and possible mobility of ancient peoples. (Fig. 2) The panel comprised several Hungarian presentations. In close cooperation with many other research institutes, the Institute of Archaeology of the HAS RCH discussed the possible reasons (infectious diseases, traumas) for the creation of mass graves at the Abony site dated to the beginning of the Middle Copper Age. (Fig. 3)

The latest findings of research into tumours and tuberculosis diseases in modern and ancient populations were presented at the *Past and present of TB and cancers* panel (organizers: Krisztina Takács-Vellai, György Pálfi, Ildikó Pap, Albert Zink, Olivier Dutour; Department of Biological Anthropology, Eötvös Loránd University; Department of Anthropology, University of Szeged; Department of Anthropology, Hungarian Natural History Museum; EURAC Bolzano, Italy; EPHE Bordeaux, France). The Hungarian presentations summarized the results of several ongoing or recently completed OTKA/NKFI projects conducted by the Department of Anthropology of the Hungarian Natural History Museum, the Department of Biological Anthropology of the Eötvös Loránd University, and the University of Szeged. Furthermore, the recent findings of the “Lendület” (Momentum) Research Group of the Institute of Archaeology of the HAS RCH were also reported. (Fig. 4)

The session titled *Engaging local stakeholders in archaeological tourism* (organizers: Ivor Janković, Sanjin Mihelić, Vlasta Krklec; Institute for Anthropological Research, Zagreb; Archaeological Museum, Zagreb; Krapina Neanderthal Museum) dealt with involving population living at cultural heritage sites into scientific research, and the possibilities of strengthening the relationship between tourism and local patriotism. We were introduced to the activities of the Krapina Museum opened in 2010 focusing on the life of Neanderthals in Croatia, as well as to the museum pedagogical programs and future plans of the likewise recently opened Vučedol Culture Museum. In addition, a number of initiatives



Fig. 2: The opening slide of the presentation by Kitti Köhler, Antónia Marcsik, Szilvia Fábíán, Tibor Marton, Márta Daróczy-Szabó, Gábor Serlegi, Péter Zádori, Gergely Biró, Helen D. Donoghue, and Tamás Hajdu



Fig. 3: Kitti Köhler presented the results of the analysis of the Abony Late Copper Age mass graves (photo: György Pálfi)



Fig. 4: Participants of the panel “Past and present of TB and cancers” (photo: György Pálfi)

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were announced the aims of which are, beyond archaeological excavations, raising the interest of stakeholders as well as the citizens and students of concerned towns and villages. The speakers also told about their aspirations towards taking their programs further, occasionally raising them to the national level. On the day after the session, a poster exhibit hosted by a Dubrovnik secondary school allowed us an insight into archaeological excavations conducted with the involvement of secondary school students. (Fig. 5)

In the panel *Academic knowledge “per se” – versus knowlegde for the “public”* (organizer: Balázs Balogh, Institute of Ethnography, HAS RCH) a similar theme was covered by researchers practicing cultural anthropology and ethnography.

In addition to the lessons of the conference, the importance of the event lies in that Hungary’s scientific relations with neighbouring Croatia have been made stronger than before.



Fig. 5: The building of the Vučedol Culture Museum fitting well into the landscape
(source: http://www.turizamvukovar.hr/vukovar_eng.php?stranica=173)