

## **Report on IUAES 2019 Inter-Congress “World Solidarities” August 27-31, 2019, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland**

The inter-congresses of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES), have been organized sporadically since 1981, and on regular annual basis since 2010 (see [www.iuaes.org](http://www.iuaes.org)). The venue of the 2019 IUAES Inter-Congress was announced by the IUAES General Assembly during the 18<sup>th</sup> IUAES World Congress, which took place in Florianopolis, Brazil, in July 2018.

The 2019 IUAES Inter-Congress, entitled “World Solidarities”, was hosted by the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. The organizing institutions were the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES), the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, and the Polish Ethnological Society. The Inter-Congress Chair was Michal Buchowski, the President of the Polish Ethnological Society, and the Head of the Department in Poznan. The Organizing Committee, coordinated by Natalia Bloch and Lukasz Kaczmarek, comprised eight members, while the Scientific Committee included five Polish colleagues and three members of the IUAES Executive Committee. The team of student-volunteers enabled the smooth realization of the conference. The Inter-Congress website and other activities were managed by Mazurkas Travel.

The Congress took place from August 27 to 31, and was attended by 615 anthropologists from 60 countries around the world. The conference featured 2 keynote lectures, 3 plenaries, 103 thematic panels, 8 roundtables, 8 workshops, and 23 films. (The link to the program book is: [https://www.iuaes2019.org/congress\\_programme/](https://www.iuaes2019.org/congress_programme/)).

The Poznan IUAES 2019 Inter-Congress was a rich and multi-layered event in terms of intellectual content, organizational features, artistic and social events.

The Inter-Congress started in the afternoon of August 27 with the Opening Ceremony, comprising addresses by the Deputy Mayor of Poznan, Vice-Rector of AMU, the IUAES Secretary-General Noel Salazar, the Inter-Congress Chair, Michal Buchowski, and the Organizing Committee Co-coordinator, Natalia Bloch. The Opening Ceremony also featured the keynote lecture by Chris Hann, the Founding Director of the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle/Sale, entitled "The Seductions of Europe and the Solidarities of Euroasia". The ceremony ended with the concert by Dagadana, the band blending elements of Polish and Ukrainian culture through jazz, folk and electronic music.

The Inter-Congress went on for four full days with a variety of plenary and parallel sessions. Alisse Waterston, Presidential Scholar and Professor of Anthropology at City University of New York, presented the second keynote lecture, entitled “Imagining World Solidarities for a Livable Future”. Three other academic plenary sessions were devoted to the following themes: “Anthropological Solidarities: Lines of Division and Collaboration within Academia (Young Scholars’ Plenary)”, “Transhumanism’s Solidarity”, and “Solidarities in Times of Migration, Xenophobia and Populism”. The 103 parallel panels, within which most of the papers were presented, followed a large number of themes. Many of them were organized by the IUAES commissions, but also by two to three individual co-organizers from different countries.

Beside the sessions with intellectual content, the conference included numerous meetings. Firstly, there were business meetings of the two organizations comprising the World Anthropological Union (WAU) – World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA) and IUAES, which

came together under one umbrella organization in 2017. They held independent and joint membership meetings, the executives' meetings, the WAU Steering Committee meetings, and the WAU Constituency Meeting. The IUAES bodies also organized their own events, such as the IUAES commissions meetings, the Council of Commissions meeting, and the IUAES General Assembly. Secondly, international funding organizations, such as European Research Council (ERC), and Wennner-Gren Foundation had presentations of their own activities.

The IUAES General Assembly (held on August 30) reported on all the major activities since the World Congress in Brazil, including the much-improved financial status of IUAES. It also confirmed and advertised that the next IUAES World Congress will be held in Bhubaneswar, India, and organized by the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences in the period January 5-19, 2023. The theme will be "Anthropology in Public Sphere: Global Peace and Development". It was also announced that the next IUAES Inter-Congress will be held in Šibenik, Croatia, on October 7-11, 2020. The Inter-Congress is entitled "Coming of Age on Earth: Legacies and Next Generation Anthropology".

The World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA) took part in the Congress in two major ways, namely by co-sponsoring two WAU events, and by holding a number of meetings. Within the first domain, "The Fires and Destruction in Rio and Elsewhere: What is Anthropology Losing and What we Should Do?" was organized by Junji Koizumi and Carmen Rial. The speakers were: Michał Buchowski, João Pacheco de Oliveira, Gustavo Lins Ribeiro, and Motoi Suzuki.

Also, the roundtable on "Anthropology and Sustainable Development Goals: Should Anthropologists Become More Involved and How?" was organized by Vesna Vučinić Nešković and Thomas Reuter. The speakers were: Faye Harrison, Gustavo Lins Ribeiro, Heather O'Leary, Soumendra Patnaik, and Nuria Sans. In addition, WCAA Global Cultural Policies Task Force, chaired by Vesna Vučinić-Nešković, and IUAES Commission on Enterprise Anthropology, chaired by Zhang Jijiao, co-organized an open panel entitled "Solidarities between the State and Local Community in Revitalization of Old Urban Cores." The papers were submitted by the two panel co-organizers, and by Liu Qian and Idham Bachtiar Setiadi.

The WCAA Delegates Meeting was attended by around twenty-five representatives of member associations. Carmen Rial, the WCAA Chair, opened the meeting by announcing that the new WAU website is being established (<https://www.waunet.org/>), with common WAU space, but also with two distinct parts – one for the WCAA and the other for the IUAES news. The interviews made with delegates about teaching anthropology in non-university settings around the world (during the last year's WCAA Biennial Meeting in Florianopolis), are being gradually produced as 15-minute videos, and posted on the website. Virginia Dominguez, WCAA Org Comm Member, also engaged two anthropologists to make a sample syllabus for a 10<sup>th</sup> grade anthropology class. Reports were made on the Newsletter and *Deja Lu*, the WCAA online journal. The premises of the next WCAA Biennial Meeting were discussed. Helen MacDonald, the WCAA Treasurer, said that since Anthropology Southern Africa association will have its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020, this celebration could be accompanied by an international academic meeting and a WCAA Biennial Meeting. The alternative venue would be Šibenik, where the 2020 IUAES Inter-Congress is to take place. The meeting ended with a few announcements, including the one from Danilyn Rutherford, the President of Wenner-Gren Foundation, about their new mission statement, and priority areas for the coming period. Lastly, the WCAA associations were invited to remind their members to become members of IUAES.

It may be concluded that the IUAES 2019 Inter-Congress in Poznan was an excellently organized and pleasant event. The innovative and well-rounded program, the proximity of all conference and

other common spaces, as well as the positive academic atmosphere, all made this conference a memorable experience. Opportunities for socializing at the opening reception, conference dinner, around the common meals at lunch and at coffee breaks, enabled strengthening the old and forming new friendships.

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