

NEWS

1. ANTHROPOLOGY AND HEALTH »Domains of Application in the 21st Century«, June 13-20, 2004, Hvar, Is- land of Hvar, Croatia

Organizers

- International Institute for Advanced Studies in Anthropology – Hvar
- Croatian Anthropological Society
- Institute for Anthropological Research, Zagreb
- IUAES Commission on Medical Anthropology and Epidemiology

Course Directors

- Linda A. Bennett (University of Memphis, USA)
- Noel Chrisman (University of Washington, USA)
- Linda Whiteford (University of South Florida, USA)
- Pavao Rudan (Institute for Anthropological Research, Croatia)

Course Secretary

- Lana Škreblin (Institute for Anthropological Research, Croatia)

Summary

Our growing capability to grasp new knowledge through biocultural medicine and public health does not lead to easy solutions to the problems of illness, poverty, and human suffering. Our diminishing power to translate new scientific achievements into benefits for world-wide problems is failing miserably. The high points of the Twentieth Century – although im-

pressive with respect to technological advances--are dramatically marked by a deterioration of successes in ameliorating socio-biological maladies. Within the elevated state of global hardships obviously characteristic of the beginning of the Twenty-first Century, a cross-fertilization between medical anthropology and epidemiology can help point the way to some major advances. Both medical anthropology and epidemiology provide the necessary methods and theoretical paradigms to enhance the comparative study of ways in which culture constructs knowledge about the body, psychosocial development, illness, and health. The course will present and debate a wide range of today's most scientifically troubling themes regarding the choice of productive approaches in medical anthropological research. Presenters will represent a broad overview of medical anthropology, covering the following topics:

- *Evolution of an epidemic of diabetes*
- *Genetic studies of complex diseases*
- *Hmong shamanism in America*
- *Living with chronic exposure*
- *Life long learning*
- *Cultural issues in the clinical setting*
- *Risk and protective factors in adolescent immigrants*
- *Adolescent dieting behavior and psychological well-being*
- *Self-determination and developmental disabilities*
- *Immigrants in Norway*
- *Anthropology and genetic epidemiology in island populations*

- *Metabolic syndrome on the island of Hvar*
- *Assessing drug use and abuse cross-culturally*
- *Polygenetically determined diseases and dermatoglyphic expressions*
- *Evaluation in community-based participatory health projects*

The abstracts are in press.

General information

The conference will last six full days. Each day, four to six one-hour lectures will be presented by invited speakers during morning and afternoon sessions that will be followed by extensive discussions of the participants. There will be no parallel sessions and every participant will be able to follow all the lectures. The lecture pattern will remain flexible and will be determined by specific requirements. The working language will be English.

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2. 30th SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY »Population Genetics«, September 14, 2004, Zagreb, Croatia

Organizers

- Croatian Anthropological Society
- Institute for Anthropological Research, Zagreb
- Croatian Medical Association

- Croatian Academy of Medical Sciences
- IUAES Commission on Medical Anthropology and Epidemiology

Invited Lecturers

- Luigi Luca Cavalli-Sforza
(Stanford University, USA)
- Richard Villems
(Estonian Biocentre, Estonia)

General information

In the framework of annually held courses, the 30th School of Biological Anthropology will continue the endeavor of Croatian anthropologists to stimulate international exchange of ideas and expand the views of students by bringing to Zagreb distinguished specialists from the Stanford University and Estonian Biocentre. The presenters, who are specialists in the field of population genetics are proving to be extremely valuable partners to Croatian colleagues and confirmed the significance of topics studied currently in this country and to be of great value to undergraduate and graduate students, justifying its educative aspect. With the handing of the entire human genome sequence, human genetics is faced with many new challenges. We hope that the jubilar 30th School of Biological Anthropology will contribute to more complete understanding of patterns of human evolution, major migratory routes as revealed by uniparental and nuclear markers as well as genetic variability basics of unity among diverse human populations.

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