

Presentation

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I wish first of all to express my heartfelt thanks to the President and the Executive Council of the Italian Anthropological Association for honouring the University of Turin by allowing it to organize the XIX AAI Congress. In September 1961, as part of the "Torino 61" Celebrations of the First Centenary of Italian Unification, Prof. Savina Fumagalli of the Institute of Anthropology and Ethnography of the University of Turin organized the "First Congress of Anthropology, Ethnology and Folklore", with numerous researchers coming to Turin from all over Italy and from abroad.

Fifty years later, I had the pleasure and honour to host once again in Turin researchers in Anthropology from all of Italy and from many foreign countries. The aims were to delineate the activities and scientific debates carried out in this half century, to present current lines of research and to discuss future frontiers of anthropological studies.

The XIX congress gave adequate space to the different aspects of the study of man through a more integrated and interdisciplinary anthropological approach. Along with more traditional methods, new and increasingly sophisticated technologies are constantly being applied to the study

of the human species in different cultural, spatial and chronological contexts.

After the magistral and introductory lectures by eminent scientists, the congress dealt with particularly important and topical subjects; the high quality and great scientific interest of all the talks assured the success of the meeting. The broad range of contributions by the participants was a tangible demonstration of the increasingly ample proportions now assumed by anthropology in its interactions with various other disciplines.

I am particularly thankful to the illustrious guests who agreed to deliver the magistral and introductory lectures, greatly enhancing the scientific significance of the congress. Sincere thanks also go to the Polo Universitario Asti Studi Superiori and to the coordinators of the session on Biology and Evolution of Primates.

Moreover, I wish to express my gratitude to the members of the scientific committee who, through a careful reading of the works, helped me prepare the congress.

In closing, I wish to thank all the participants, as well as the organizing committee and my collaborators for their serious commitment and assistance.