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Foreword

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Foreword

Welcome to a wonderful collection of presentations delivered at the jubilee 25th IACCP congress. The congress was extraordinary not just due to its rounded 25th run but mainly due to the coronavirus pandemic (which forced the congress delay from 2020 to 2021, hence, 2020+) and due to a complete change of the presentation mode from in-person to virtual.

Originally, the congress was supposed to take place in the lovely University City of Olomouc [pronounced OH-loh-mohts], in the Moravian region of the Czech Republic. When the Czech organization team started the preparations in the early 2019, it entertained the suggestion of Iva Poláčková Šolcová that the phrase *Where is my home* (which also happens to be a Czech national anthem) becomes the congress motto.

After all, home is a central concept in the cross-cultural research, bringing forward the themes of territory, identity, migration, foreigners, languages, othering, etc. Importantly, home or house, *oikos* (οἶκος) in Greek is also the root of other significant concepts, such as economy (οἰκονομία) and ecology (οἰκολογία). That provides home with additional, expanded meanings. From an ecological perspective, our home has almost no limits: it is the whole planet and beyond. Thus, despite our diversity, it is good to view in this larger global perspective, the unity of mankind and responsibility for our shared home on Earth; we may even fantasize and aspire for a mankind as a shared democratic demos. *Where is my home*, the Czech national anthem, celebrates the beauty of Czech lands which we were hoping to share with you. Covid-19 changed our plans. None of us fancied that home-office will become a household term and most of us will take part in the conference by zoom and whova from our own homes, instead.

Still, it turned out that the congress in the electronic form had more merits than we expected. It welcomed 430 participants from 45 countries, who shared 200 oral presentations, 68 posters and 35 symposia. We had eight outstanding keynote speakers. The congress turned out to be more interactive than some conventional events despite different time zones we had to struggle with. But best of all, participants did not suffer from the stress which is typical for every event with parallel sessions. Speakers in general prerecorded their presentations; that allowed all participants to see everything they wanted to see and special interactive sessions allowed to communicate, discuss, virtually meet, message, and share. There were 34 pre-planned meetups, 835 community messages, 180 photo posts.

The congress succeeded not just by virtue of our Organizational and Scientific Committees (perhaps list here all), to a great degree we owe its success to a great help of an expert trio of Bill Gabrenya, Sharon Glazer, and Michael Bender, who kindly volunteered to step in at an early stage of preparations as a strategic action committee. Thanks to a highly professional team headed by Šárka Dobiášová, the technical systems ran flawlessly (this was not a mere lucky coincidence, everything was carefully secured and backed up). The human touch was augmented thanks to „deus ex machina“ Marta Vaněčková who materialized whenever a presenter or audience needed additional guidance or explanation.

We are pleased that the fruit of the conference can be shared further on, in fact in a greater entirety than traditional in-person conferences, thanks to the pre-recorded presentations. We wish you all a stimulating and enjoyable time when you watch or read the proceedings.

The Editorial Team

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