



INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO
INTERNACIONALNI UNIVERZITET U SARAJEVU

BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA



Ministarstvo civilnih poslova



Celebration of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics World Bioethics Day 2017

Celebration of the "World Bioethics Day 2017" was held on October 27, 2017 at the International University of Sarajevo (IUS). The meeting was organized by the Bosnia and Herzegovina Unit of UNESCO Chair in Bioethics.

The topic of this year celebration at the IUS was the *Gene Editing Justice*. The technique employs a modified form of the "molecular scissors" gene-editing tool CRISPR-Cas9, which has transformed genetics research and created excitement, hopes, headlines, and concerns since its power was first demonstrated in 2012.

The ceremony was opened by the IUS Rector, Prof. Dr. Tahsin Erkan Ture, who pointed at the significance of organizing this scientific meeting, saying what could be more important than strengthening the upholding of bioethical principles in scientific research in gene editing and thus, creating awareness among various stakeholders, including the health care providers, government institutions, scientific communities, and general public.

The audience was also addressed by Mr. Ammar Mirascija, the Head of the Science Department at the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This Ministry has generously supported this and last year's World Bioethics Day celebration at the IUS through the research grants awarded to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sabina Semiz, the Head of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Unit of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics. Professor Semiz also addressed the audience briefly and presented a special award of this Chair to Prof. Dr. Adlija Causevic from the University of Sarajevo, for her active involvement and valuable contribution since the establishment of the BH Unit of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Oliver Feeney, the Head of the Ireland's Unit of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics. Dr. Feeney is a researcher in political theory and bioethics with the Centre of Bioethical Research and Analysis, National University of Ireland (Galway) and visiting researcher with Ghent University.

Dr. Feeney delivered a lecture titled "*Gene-editing Justice: Reproductive Liberty and Post-Genomic Egalitarianism*", in which he spoke about the opportunities of the recent discoveries related to the human genome and gene editing, as well as about the importance of the relevant ethical, legal, and social issues associated with these technologies.

The IUS students, led by student Amina Agovic, also took an active and important part in this celebration with their project resulting in the movie "*Future of Change*", while the IUS academicians, Prof. Dr. Philip Aka and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ayla Arslan, contributed to the dynamic Round Table discussions "*GenEthics Today*". The program was concluded with an art exhibition "*Facing the Change*", which was open at the IUS Art Gallery from October 27 to November 3, 2017.

Below are the Scientific Program of the World Bioethics Day 2017 celebration in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The link to access the documentary film "*Future of Change*" screened by the IUS students and the PR office is also enclosed, as well as the relevant websites: <https://news.ius.edu.ba/news/celebration-world-bioethics-day-2017>, <https://www.ius.edu.ba/event/world-bioethics-day-2017>.



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WORLD BIOETHICS DAY 2017

Scientific Program – October 27, 2017 (Friday)

9.30 – 10:00	Opening addresses Presentation of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Unit of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics's Award
10:00 – 10:15	Documentary Film Premiere “Future of Change” Amina Agovic, student, <i>Genetics and Bioengineering Program, International University of Sarajevo</i>
10.15 – 11:00	Oliver Feeney Head, Irish Unit of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics (UNESCO Bioethics Ireland), Centre of Bioethical Research and Analysis (COBRA), National University of Ireland (Galway), Republic of Ireland “Gene-editing Justice: Reproductive Liberty and Post-Genomic Egalitarianism”
11:00 – 12:00	Round Table “GenEthics Today” <i>Introduction by Sabina Semiz, Associate Professor, Genetics and Bioengineering Program, International University of Sarajevo</i> <i>Discussion:</i> - Oliver Feeney, <i>National University of Ireland, Galway, Republic of Ireland</i> - Adlija Causevic, <i>Professor, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Sarajevo</i> - Philip Aka, <i>Professor, Faculty of Law, International University of Sarajevo</i> - Kasim Bajrovic, <i>Professor, Institute for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, University of Sarajevo</i> - Stojko Vidovic, <i>Professor, Department of Human Genetics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Banja Luka</i> - Ayla Arslan, <i>Associate Professor, Genetics and Bioengineering Program, International University of Sarajevo</i> - Giovanni Misceo, <i>Associate Professor, Psychology Department, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, International University of Sarajevo</i>
12.00 – 13.00	Art Exhibition at the IUS Art Gallery “Facing the Change” Refreshments

Organized by the **Bosnia and Herzegovina Unit of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics.**