

Conference Report

Panels on the History of Anthropology at the 18th IUAES World Congress held in Florianópolis, Brazil, July 16-20, 2018

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The 18th International Union of Anthropological und Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) world congress was held at the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC) in Florianópolis, Brazil, July 16-20, 2018. Approximately 2,000 participants discussed the congress theme “World (of) Encounters: the Past, Present and Future of Anthropological Knowledge” in 200 Open Panels and 36 Closed Panels. Four panels dealt with the history of anthropology and HOAN members convened one of them.

The first panel, [OP 040 – Theory, Progress and History in Anthropology](#), took place on Monday, July 16, and was convened by Gérald Gaillard (Université des Sciences et Techniques de Lille, France), Petr Skalník (University of Hradec Králové, Czech Republic), Peter Schröder (Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil) and Han Vermeulen (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Germany). The following six papers were presented: Elena Soboleva (Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography (Kunstkamera) RAS, Russia) lectured on “Brazilian materials of the second Russian expedition to Latin America (1914-1915).” Vladimir Popov (St. Petersburg State University, Russia) discussed the subject of “‘Tribe’: a concept which lost its conceptuality.” Peter Schröder (Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil) talked about “An Episode from the Beginnings of Anthropology in the Amazon: Curt Nimuendajú and the Xipaya Indians – A research in adverse circumstances.” Petr

Skalník (University of Hradec Králové, Czech Republic) discussed “The Czech case: skirmishes between sociocultural anthropology and *národopis*.” Gérald Gaillard (Université des Sciences et Techniques de Lille, France) raised the question “Can we speak of scientific progress in anthropology? *Pouvons-nous parler de progrès scientifiques en anthropologie?*” And Renate Brigitte Viertler (Federal University of São Paulo, Brazil) lectured on “Karl von den Steinen: His Life and Contributions to Brazilian Ethnology.”

After the Open Panel 040 a new chair and deputy chair of the IUAES Commission on Theoretical Anthropology (COTA) was elected by 13 members present at the meeting. As incoming Chair was elected: Vladimir Popov (St. Petersburg State University, Russia), as incoming Deputy Chair: Dwight Read (**). The outgoing Chair Petr Skalník and Deputy Chair Aleksandar Bosković were thanked for their efforts.

On Thursday, July 19, the [OP 125 – Missionary Ethnographies: Encounters, Uses and Legacies Between Science and Faith](#) was convened by Richard Hoelzl (Universität Göttingen, Germany). Two papers were presented: Melvina Araújo (Federal University of São Paulo, Brazil) read a paper about “Missionaries, Anthropologists and their Traditions” focusing on the work of the priest and ethnographer Costanzo Cagnolo; Jhæssika Angell (Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil) discussed “The Anthropology inside the Missionary Training Course: An Ethnographic Exercise.”

That same day took place the [OP 010 – Alternate Histories about Anthropology: Tensions between National Imperatives and Cosmopolitan Imperatives](#), convened by Antonio Motta (Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil), Lorenzo Macagno (Federal University of Paraná, Brazil) and Eric Morier-Genoud (Queen’s University Belfast, Northern Ireland). Dione do Socorro de Souza Leão (Federal University of Pará, Brazil) presented an “Ethnography in the Judicial Archives of the Labor Board of Breves, Marajo Archipelago, Pará.” Lorenzo Macagno (Federal University of Paraná, Brazil) lectured on “Franz Boas and Kamba Simango: Anthropology in the primordia of pan-Africanism.” Erik Petschelies (State University of Campinas, Brazil) reported about “Theodor Koch-Grünberg and the Brazilian Intellectuals.” Amurabi Oliveira (Federal University of Santa Catarina) gave a paper on “The Institute of Anthropology in Santa Catarina: between the local and the national.” Andreia Vicente (State University of Western Paraná, Brazil) spoke about “Kalervo Obert and the transnational model of “community.” Robert Wegner (Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, Brazil) discussed “Eugenics, Genetics, and Anthropology in Brazil: the racial miscegenation debate in 1930s.” Eric Morier-Genoud (Queen’s University Belfast, Northern Ireland) lectured on the relation of Henri Philippe Junod with anthropology and human rights. Antonio Motta (Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil) returned to the main topic of the panel by presenting a comparative overview about the history of ethnology in Brazil, Spain and Portugal.



Some participants of Open Panel 010, from the left to right: Antonio Motta, Robert Wegner, Andreia Vicente, Amurabi Oliveira, Lorenzo Macagno, Eric Morier-Genoud, Helder Pires Amâncio, Erik Petschelies.

On the congress' final day, Friday, July 20, Mariana Françaço (Leiden University, the Netherlands) and Christiano Tambascia (State University of Campinas) convened the [OP 136 – New Encounters with Museum Anthropology: Objects, History, Politics](#). Christiano Tambascia discussed the history of Brazilian ethnology by “Recollecting the history of anthropology: Nimuendajú’s Ramkokamekra collection.” Renata Curcio Valente (Museu do Índio, Brazil) read a paper about “Guido Boggiani’s and Darcy Ribeiro’s ethnographic collections of the Kadiwéu Indians.” Richard Hoelzl (Universität Göttingen, Germany) spoke in his paper “Interconnections of ethnographic collecting, religious zeal and social reproduction” about a collection of religious artifacts from Tanzania held at the Museum Fünf Kontinente in Munich, Germany. Lucas Monteiro de Araújo (Federal University of Pará) lectured on “Collections and travelers: studies about collecting practices adopted in scientific expeditions in the Marajoara region.” Eduardo H. B. Vasconcelos (State University of Goias) reported on “The Lost Science: The History of a Museum of Natural History in Brazil (19th century) and, closing the panel, Mariana Françaço (Leiden University) presented a paper called “Old story, new display: addressing the history of anthropology in museum exhibitions.”

The forth keynote speaker also dealt with the history of ethnology. The Brazilian ethnologist of Congolese descent, Kabengele Munanga, discussed the position of Brazilian ethnology towards Western traditions, mainly from a decolonized standpoint.



Kabengele Munanga's key note

The next venue for the IUAES World Congress will be held at the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India, in 2023.

The book of abstracts can be downloaded [here](#).