

“Society, Science, Progress: Lewis Henry Morgan (1818-1881)”

On the occasion of Morgan’s bi-centenary a conference “Society, Science, Progress: Lewis Henry Morgan (1818-1881)” took place at the Rectorate of the University of Belgrade, Serbia, on 30 November 2018. The one-day event was organized by Katarina Mitrović and Jelena Ćuković from the Department of Ethnology and Anthropology, Faculty of Philosophy. Supported by EASA’s HOAN, the University of Belgrade’s Interdisciplinary Program for the History and Philosophy of Natural Sciences and Technology, as well as by the Commission on Theoretical Anthropology (COTA) of the IUAES, the conference had been prepared as an opportunity to look at various aspects of the history of our discipline, so it was more than just a commemoration of Morgan’s bi-centenary. Prof. Aleksandar Bošković (Collegium, Institute of Advanced Studies in Lyon), who opened the conference, presented aspects of Morgan’s work in the context of his own time, as he seems to be an early example of an “engaged anthropologist.” This topic also echoed in the presentation of Prof. Goran Pavel Šantek (University of Zagreb), who spoke about the contemporary relevance of Morgan’s methodology, especially concerning giving voice to the ones who are studied. Other presentations included Prof. Gordana Gorunović (University of Belgrade) on Morgan’s evolutionism; Prof. Virginia R. Dominguez (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) on her experiences with presenting Morgan lectures at the University of Rochester (“Lewis Henry Morgan, the Social Life of Invocations, and Me”); Dr. Ana Banić Grubišić on Morgan’s idea of periodization of human history and popular culture; Jelena Ćuković on evolutionism in UNESCO documents; and Katarina Mitrović on the education and identity of North American Indians. Finally, several participants presented aspects relevant for contemporary research (Imola Pusok from the University of Pécs on mining in context, Reza Bayat from the University of Göttingen on affects and emotions), or dealt with topics from the history of anthropology (Áron Bákos from the University of Pécs on Franz Boas and religion) or with intersections of cultural history and anthropology (Nina Zdravković from the University of Belgrade on Mihajlo Pupin as a culture hero).





Photos by Jelena Ćuković