

# Хроника Currents Actualité

**The IUAES 2021 Yucatan Congress „Heritages, Global Interconnections in a Possible World”. Mexico, November 9–13, 2021.**

The IUAES 2021 Yucatan Congress, entitled „**Heritages, Global Interconnections in a Possible World**”, took place in Mexico in online format. The Congress was organized by the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) and the World Anthropological Union (WAU), and hosted by the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). The principal organizer and the Chair of the Organizing Committee was Maria Victoria Chenaut, Mexican/Argentinian academician and senior researcher at CIESAS. General secretaries Rodrigo Llanes Salazar and Mirian Solis Lizama, also coordinated the work of the eleven-member Organizing Committee. The eleven-member Advisory Committee included four members of the IUAES Executive Committee, namely President Junji Koizumi, Secretary-General Noel Salazar, Senior Vice-President Subhadra Channa, Treasurer Helen MacDonald and other renowned anthropologists from around the world. The Scientific Committee included IUAES Noel Salazar, and Chair of the Council of Commissions Heather O’Leary, and twelve anthropologists from Mexico and other countries. The logistics and communication coordinators as well

as technical support staff enabled the smooth realization of the conference. The Congress website was very informative and offered an excellent overview of the program and the accompanying activities, and is still open. ([www.iuaes2021yucatan.org](http://www.iuaes2021yucatan.org))

The Congress took place from November 9 to 13, and was attended by 993 anthropologists from 69 countries of all settled continents (the most represented countries being Mexico, Brazil, USA, India, and Argentina). The conference featured 97 thematic panels with 798 papers, 18 roundtables, as well as 21 film and 19 book presentations. (The link to the program can be found at: <https://iuaes2021yucatan.org>)

The Congress Opening started in the morning of November 9, with the first plenary session featuring the welcome addresses by Junji Koizumi, Noel Salazar, and Victoria Chenaut, followed by the keynote lecture by Lourdes Arizpe, entitled „Culture and New Global Trends in Reimagining Heritage: Significance, Cultural Industries and Video Games”.

The Congress went on for five full days with a variety of plenary and parallel sessions. The second plenary session was „Homage to Gustavo Lins Ribeiro. Franz Boas Award for Exemplary Service to Anthropology”. The third plenary session presented the keynote lecture by Ochy Curiel Pichardo, entitled „Apropiación del Patrimonio: Racismo Multicultural.”

The 97 parallel panels, within which most of the papers were presented, followed a large number of themes. Many of them were organized by the IUAES commissions, but also by two or three individual co-organizers from different countries. The official language of communication was English, but many papers were also presented in Spanish and Portuguese.

The IUAES General Assembly reported on all the major activities since the IUAES Congress in Šibenik, Croatia (March 2021). It also confirmed that the preparations for the upcoming IUAES Congress in St. Petersburg, Russia, entitled „World on the Move: Migration and Communication”, to be held on May 25–31, 2022, are underway (<https://iuaes2022.spb.ru/>). In addition, it announced that the 19<sup>th</sup> IUAES-WAU Anthropology Congress themed „Marginalities, Uncertainties, and World Anthropologies: Enlivening Past and Envisioning Future” will be held in New Delhi, India, on October 14–20, 2023 (<https://iuaes2023delhi.org/>).

The World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA) took part in the Congress in two major ways, namely by co-sponsoring a major WAU event and two panels. On November 12, the WAU Steering Committee organized a plenary roundtable named „**North-South Relations in Anthropology: Shouts, Silences, Patterns, and the Question of Continued Colonization**”. Organized by Virginia Dominguez, Isaac Nyamongo, Junji Koizumi, and Carmen Rial, the speakers were Danilyn Rutherford (Wenner-Gren Foundation), Ke Fan (Nanjing University), Subhadra Channa (University of Delhi), Gustavo Lins Ribeiro (Universidad Autonoma

Metropolitana, Mexico), and Edward Liebow (American Anthropological Association).

WCAA Global Cultural Policies Task Force also co-organized two events with the IUAES commissions. The first event was Panel 45. „**Anthropological Perspectives on the COVID Pandemic: Impacts on Society, Culture, Public Policy and Governance, and Lessons for the Future**”, co-organized by Thomas Reuter, Soumendra Patnaik, Fadwa el Guindi, Vesna Vučinić Nešković, and Carmen Rial. The panel was sponsored by the World Anthropological Union (WAU), IUAES Commission on Anthropology, Public Policy and Development Practice, and WCAA Global Cultural Policies Task Force. The 11 papers were presented within three sessions on November 11 by scholars from Australia, Brazil, Canada, India, Mexico, Spain, and USA.

This panel invited scholars from around the world to critically reflect on the experiences that COVID brought from multiple anthropological perspectives and to extract lessons for the future from the crisis. It examines the impacts the pandemic has had, the structural injustice it has revealed and the way it transformed social and cultural lives, as well as perceptions of the sustainability crisis, climate change, food security, education, families, politics and public policy. Analyses were to inform more balanced policies and public debate about how to meet the crisis humanity is set to encounter in the coming decades.

Also, on collaboration with IUAES Commission on Anthropology and Education, and Commission on Documentation, WCAA Global Cultural Policies Task Force co-sponsored Panel 56 entitled „**Heritage, an Educational Challenge for World Citizens.**”

Giovanna Guslini, Sabine Klocke-Daffa, and Antonella Imperatriz Tassinari were panel organizers, while Vesna Vučinić Nešković was the discussant. The papers were presented on November 12 by ten participants from around the world, namely from Belgium and Congo, Brazil, China, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Poland, Portugal and USA.

The panel started with the premise that educational challenge related to different heritages concerns not only specialists but every citizen. It therefore requires the consolidation of educational networks in many contexts, from the local to the global level, in the teaching and learning of anthropology in the broadest sense, in order to become world citizens. This refers to the academic context, but, in a logic of educational continuity and life-long learning, refers also and above all to what happens outside the universities, in schools of all levels, in an audience of all ages and non-professionals to reach. With this in mind, the panel

invited papers from anthropologists, interdisciplinary researchers, educators and educational communicators to focus on heritage(s) in formal, informal and public education, exploring past, present and potential future possibilities.

It may be concluded that the IUAES 2021 Yucatan Congress was a very well-organized event. Clear rules related to timing and procedures, enabled efficient management of all the Congress activities, and thus swift online communication. In addition, the organizers succeeded in creating a pleasant space for paper and film presentations as well as lively discussions at the panels, round tables and all other events.

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