

# EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGISTS (EASA) 10TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 2008 LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA

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This year the city of Ljubljana was host to the 10<sup>th</sup> biennial EASA Conference: “Experiencing Diversity and Mutuality” was organized by the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Ljubljana. The conference started on Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> with an invited lecture by Philippe Descola; an evening reception with welcoming speeches was held in the Castle overlooking the city lying on the banks of the Ljubljanica River.

In the three days that followed over 1200 delegates were engaged in presenting 1000 papers in 114 workshops; moreover there was a varied additional programme with poster sessions, film festivals, roundtables, network meetings, and book displays. The Lévi-Strauss’ Centennial tribute was a collective gathering which packed most delegates into the Central Hall of the Faculty of Arts. Each afternoon all delegates moved to the Slovenian Philharmonic to listen to the plenary sessions where guest lecturers covered subject matters connected with the major themes of the conference: diversity and mutuality. Immediately after the sessions, those who had energy enough could go to the nearby Zvezda Park to join book presentations as well as the Zupanič’s Collection presentation, published at the department of Ethnology. With a programme so dense organization was essential: Rajko Muršič, the Director of the Department, was everywhere, the student team was helpful, and the Nomadit staff was in efficient charge of administrative and secretarial work.

When delegates needed a break, they could find it by strolling along the river, by stopping in the lively market squares or simply by enjoying the downtown area where tens of places were available for a drink or an ice cream. The city looked brilliant under the late summer sun displaying the course of history on its buildings: the medieval Castle, the



Rajko Muršič talking with Ulf Hannerz



NEWS

Italian baroque, the Secession style facades and so called nouvelle vague style, created by disciples of the well known architect Jože Plečnik. And at night the notes of the ongoing music festival were pleasant companions for whoever cared to listen. The dinner reception, hosted in the Slovene Ethnographic Museum, was the last act of the Conference. Then, once more, the curtain fell on the EASA to rise again in Maynooth, Ireland in 2010.

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