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Challenges of the Biological Anthropology, and Problems Related to Global Bioethics*

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ABSTRACT Natural history of Man is still the background of all anthropologists, although an evolution has been felt with the development of new techniques in molecular biology and in statistics for instance. However, it is not because we use new techniques that we would be necessarily better anthropologists. We must not use a reductionistic reasoning, but a holistic thinking. We do not need all competences (from prehistory to genetics), we will not be polycompetent but we must be able to focus on priority problems and to stimulate the complementarity of the disciplines. Our richness is our diversity. Let us accept this diversity but let us work at the same time to a common spirit. Let us accept the fusion of “hard” and “soft” science in Anthropology, the scientific and humanistic approaches. We can not neglect our history, the past is still influencing some spirits. It is no longer possible to justify racism or simply discrimination on the basis of scientific arguments or even of pseudo-science. But we know xenophobia is still present, that nationalism is still part of our actuality, that in some European countries extreme right-wing parties are in the power. In Anthropology, our history being what it is, we must be double careful.