

5th Slovak Philosophical Congress Report

The 5th Philosophical Congress “(Meta)Philosophy – Practice” took place in Bratislava on October 21-23, 2015. It was 20 years ago that the 1st Slovak philosophical congress, also held in Bratislava, commenced the tradition of Slovak philosophical congresses. As its name suggests, the congress addressed the questions of self-understanding in philosophy, the “practical” and “theoretical” philosophy, the relationship between philosophy and practice, but also the current issues of contemporary man and society emerging in various spheres of individual and social life.

The congress was organized by Slovak Philosophical Association at the Slovak Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Philosophy at Slovak Academy of Sciences, under the auspices of the president of the Slovak Republic, Andrej Kiska. The event was generously supported by Holiday Inn Hotel in Bratislava, Bratislava Tourist Board, Slovak National Museum – Ludovít Štúr Museum in Modra and REA printing company, Nitra.

The congress was opened by the *President* of the Slovak Philosophical Association at Slovak Academy of Sciences (SPA, SAS), Andrea Javorská, followed by the ceremonial speeches given by the director of the Institute of Philosophy, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Tibor Pichler, and the President of SPA, SAS. Among other things, Tibor Pichler pointed out to new trends in the Slovak philosophical thought.

The ceremonial speeches were followed by plenary lectures by the following participants: Vladimir Vladimirovič Varava (*Peculiarities of Russian Philosophical Language as a Language of Meta-Literary Discourse*) from the University of Voronezh, Martin Kusch (*Scepticism and Relativism*) from the University of Vienna, Emil Višňovský (*Richard Rorty and the Mirror of Philosophy*) from the Faculty of Arts, Comenius University, Marián Zouhar (*Philosophy and Conceptual Space*) from the Faculty of Arts, Comenius University, and Miroslav Marcelli (*Two Kinds of Philosophical Thinking*) from the Faculty of Arts, Comenius University in Bratislava. The lectures presented important and current issues in philosophy and reflected the heterogeneity of both problems and approaches. They triggered interesting and valuable discussions.

After the plenary lectures, the conference hosted five individual sessions in three days. The sessions were dedicated both, to the continental and analytic philosophical traditions. The talks focused on the history of philosophy, different metaphysical, epistemological and ethical issues, as well as on the perspectives coming from other scientific fields. It is evident that the variety of topics reflected (not

only) a variety of interests, contexts and different philosophical approaches along with an openness for inter- or trans-disciplinary approach.

On the first day, Andrea Javorská, on behalf of the Organising Committee of the congress afforded the honorary membership to two Slovak philosophers, namely Miroslav Marcelli (Department of Philosophy and History of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts, Comenius University in Bratislava) and Jozef Sivák (Institute of Philosophy, Slovak Academy of Sciences). It was a gesture of gratitude for their philosophical work and a long-standing cooperation with the Slovak Philosophical Association. The first day's evening reception was also attended by the Bratislava Tourist Board Executive Director, A. Mikulová.

The congress also commemorated the 200th anniversary of Eudovít Štúr's birth, an important Slovak intellectual, by a panel discussion called "*Ludovít Štúr in an Intersection of the Past and the Present*" which took place during the second day. The following specialists took part on the discussion: Tibor Pichler, Beáta Mihalkovičová (Slovak National Museum – Ludovít Štúr Museum in Modra), a historian of culture and art and publicist Viliam Jablonický (Slovak P.E.N. Centre member), and Vasil Gluchman (Faculty of Philosophy, University of Prešov), who also chaired the discussion. They emphasized that Štúr's biography and intellectual work are still underappreciated.

The 5th philosophical congress hosted around 80 participants, a considerable number of them coming from countries such as Poland, the Czech Republic, Ukraine, Russia and Austria. The congress brought a professional benefit in for the participants and confirmed the view that the tradition of organising philosophical congresses in Slovakia is a worthwhile project. We believe that this event embodied a unique and precious opportunity to experience philosophy, promote creative dialogue and promote academic contacts.

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*Modal Metaphysics:
Issues on the (Im)Possible V*

August 17-18, 2017
(Bratislava, Slovakia)

Keynote speakers

PHILLIP BRICKER (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)
SEAHWA KIM (Ewha Womans University, Seoul)

We invite submissions for a 30 minute presentation followed by 10 minute comments and a 15 minute discussion. Areas of interest might include any aspect of analytic metaphysics, epistemology and logic of modality.

A paper of approximately 3000 words should be prepared for blind review and include a cover page with the full name, title, institution and contact information.

Papers can be submitted in pdf or doc(x) and should be sent to
modalmetaphysics@gmail.com.

Deadline for submission: **March 15, 2017**
Notification of acceptance: **April 30, 2017**

If you wish to submit a paper, comment on an accepted paper or would need any further details, contact Martin Vacek (martinvacekphilosophy@gmail.com) or visit the conference website **www.metaphysics.sk.**