

## Modal Metaphysics: Issues on the (Im)Possible V August 17-18, 2017 Bratislava<sup>1</sup>

The Department of Analytic Philosophy of Slovak Academy of Sciences has been organising several international conference last five years. The topics of the conferences range from metaphysics (Issues on the (Im)Possible series), through philosophy of language (Philosophy of Language (I): Semantics of Fictional Discourse) to logic (Current Trends in Deontic Logic). In August 17-18, 2017 the first conference listed above instantiated its fifth instance. The conference, as usual, took place at the Institute of Philosophy of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. Divided into two days and two parallel sessions the conference was able, and the organisers pleased, to accommodate two keynote talks and twenty-five accepted contributions. The former were given by Philip Bricker (University of Massachusetts) and Seahwa Kim (Ewha Womans University), while the latter included scholars from all around the world.

The first day of the conference commenced with a session split into Áron Dombrovski (Eötvös Loránd University)'s 'The New Theory of Modal Fictionalism' and Borut Cerkovnik (University of Ljubljana)'s 'Modality and Ontology of the Tractatus' papers, commented by Maciej Sendłak and Yujian Zheng respectively. Next session was shared between Yujian Zheng (Lingnan University) and his 'Backtracking Counterfactuals in Causal Reasoning' followed by Shyane Siriwardena's comments, and 'Ascription, the Regress(es) of Instantiation and the Problem of Relatedness' given by Francesco Spada (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia) and commented by Bing-Cheng Huang. William Bondi Knowles (University of Edinburgh) reviewed 'Conceivability Arguments and Their Use in Philosophy' (commented by Peter Marton) while, at the same time, Mark Garron (McMaster University) discussed the triad 'Quine and Priest and the Excluded Middle'.

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After lunch, the sessions continued with a pair of talks, namely Tien-Chun Lo's (National Taiwan University) 'On the Relation between Temporal Necessity and Metaphysical Necessity' and Zsófia Zvolenszky's (Slovak Academy of Sciences) 'Inadvertently Created Fictional Characters are Nothing New' followed by 'Facts, Truths, and Liars' delivered by Peter Marton (Clark University) and commented by Mark Garron, and 'A Modal Semantics for Essence and Ground' given by Jonas Werner (University of Hamburg) commented by Mattia Sorgon. The last three slots of contributed papers were filled in by 'Expressivity of Language without Commitment to Possible Worlds', 'The Representational Deficiencies of Hybrid Modal Realism' and 'Towards a Modally Harmonious Theory of Counterfactuals: Challenging an Edgingtonian Approach' given by Bing-Cheng Huang (National Taiwan University), Matthew Collier (University of Oxford) and Shyane Siriwardena (University of Leeds) (and in the same order commented by Matteo Pascucci, Robert Michels and William Bondi Knowles). The end of the first day was reserved for the first keynote address, given by Philip Bricker. In his 'Is there a Humean Account of Qualities', Bricker addressed the Humean problem with quantities and presented what he takes to be the best account of quantities, combining his own commitment to quidditism as well as his comparativist inclinations.

The second day of the conference started with a pair of talks, namely Ilaria Acquaviva (Fondazione Collegio San Carlo, Scuola Alti Studi)'s 'Francisco Suarez's Model Theory: An Actualists and Abstractionist Paradigm on Real Possible Beings' and Aaron Ben-Ze'ev (University of Haifa)'s 'I Want to Know Where Love Is: The Extended Epistemological and Ontological Status of Romantic Experiences'. After them, Mattia Sorgon (University of Alberta) proposed 'The Modal Account of Essence: An Analysis of the Notion of Sparseness' (with Francesco Spada as a commentator) and, at the same time, Péter Susánszky (Central European University) discussed 'Fictionalism and Mere Possibilia' (followed by Áron Dombróvski's comments). Matteo Pascucci (University of Salzburg) discussed 'Modalities between a Logical and an Empirical Account of Indeterminism' (featuring Tien-Chun Lo as a commentator) and Robert Michels (Universite de Geneve) provided an account of 'Cross-World Comparatives for Lewisians' (commented by Michael Nelson).

After lunch, four more contributed papers were presented. Penultimate session was filled in by Lukas Skiba (University of Hamburg) and Maciej Sendłak (University of Warsaw) with their 'Fictionalism and the Modal Status of Fictions' and 'Worlds as Non-existent Objects' respectively, commented (in the same order) by Zsófia Zvolenszky and Sergio Genovesi. Finally, Michael Nelson (University of California-Riverside) presented 'Contingent Existents' paper with Lukas Skiba in

the role of a commentator, and Sergio Genovesi (Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn), on a similar note, spoke about ‘Contingent Events’ (commented by Matthew Collier).

The last talk of the conference, the second keynote address, was delivered by Seahwa Kim. In her ‘Fictionalism, Modal Fictionalism and Truth in Fiction’, Kim discussed Jason Stanley’s objection that hermeneutic fictionalism is revolutionary fictionalism as well as Stephen Yablo’s if-thenism. She then argued that Stanley’s objection is based on the conflation of two usages of ‘hermeneutic vs. revolutionary’ and, subsequently, pointed out that fictionalism is incompatible with if-thenism. Finally, Kim commented on an ordinary notion of truth in fiction.

Issues on the (Im)Possible V picked on the previous conference’s temporal parts. Again, the presence of brilliant philosophers and personalities have made the organisers thinking about its future continuants. Readers thus should stay tuned and keep checking conference sites ([www.metaphysics.sk](http://www.metaphysics.sk)) which, beside the history of the Issues on the (Im)Possible, tracks and will track its further evolution.

*Martin Vacek*

### Current Trends in Deontic Logic November 22-24, 2017, Bratislava, Slovakia<sup>1</sup>

The first volume of the conference *Current Trends in Deontic Logic* was organized by the *Department of Logic and Methodology of Sciences* (Comenius University in Bratislava; D. Glavaničová, T. Kollárik, M. Zouhar), co-organized by the *Department of Analytic Philosophy* (Slovak Academy of Sciences; M. Vacek) and supported by the *Jan Hus Educational Foundation*. To our knowledge, it was the first conference on deontic logic in Slovakia.

A prelude to the conference was a seminar with Sven Ove Hansson. The seminar was devoted to the paper Hansson (2006) on the ideal-world construction in deontic logic and its criticism. In a nutshell, the crucial question is the following: Is it a good approach to analyse what we ought to do in terms of what we ought to

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