

PhiLang 2015 – The Fourth International Conference
on Philosophy of Language and Linguistics
(University of Łódź, Poland, 14-16 May 2015)

PhiLang – the International Conference on Philosophy of Language and Linguistic – belongs among those few conferences which focus on overlaps between philosophy and linguistics, including overlaps between philosophy and philosophy of mind, linguistics, literary theory, semantic, and pragmatic theories and metaphilosophy. *PhiLang 2015*, the conference's fourth continuant, was (again) organized in Łódź and, as usually, brought together philosophers, logicians and linguists from all around the world.

The conference commenced with two (out of five) plenary lectures, namely Manuel-García Carpintero's (Universitat de Barcelona) and Joanna Odrowąż-Sypniewska's (University of Warsaw) entitled *Predicativism and the Presuppositional View of Proper Names* and *Context, Vagueness, and Reference*, respectively. The conference then split into three parallel sessions dedicated primarily to questions on the border between philosophy, language and linguistics. To list just a few (namely those I had a chance to attend), Gabrielle Mras (University of Vienna) discussed *The Sense of Frege's Reference*, André Bazzoni (University of California, Berkeley) proposed *The Cluster-Occurrence Theory of Proper Names*, Matthew Cameron (University of St-Andrews) discussed *Speaker's Intentions and the Formal Representation of Context* and Mark Pinder (University of Reading) posed a question: *Are Folk Intuitions Relevant to Arguments from Reference?* One of the afternoon sessions started with *Re-reading Kripke's Normativity Argument* co-authored by Krzysztof Pośajko and Jacek Wawer (Jagiellonian University Cracow) and continued with Dan Zeman's (University of the Basque Country) *Relativism and the Multi-Perspectivity of Predicates of Personal Taste* and Luis Fernández Moreno's (Universidad Complutense de Madrid), asking: *Is the Semantics of Natural Kind Terms Extendable to Artificial Terms?*

The third plenary lecture delivered by Richard Gaskin (University of Liverpool) and entitled *Reference and Linguistic Idealism* started the second day of the conference. Again, after the lecture and a vivid discussion the conference split into three parallel sessions featuring, for example, Peter Ridley's (King's College London) *Who's Mum*, Nathan Duckett's (University of Manchester) *Allegedly Isn't an Epistemic Modal*, Natalia Karczevska's (University of Warsaw)

Challenges to Metalinguistic Negotiation as Disagreement or Ashley Atkins's (Simon Fraser University) *Modality as a Window into Cognition*. The fourth plenary lecture given by Wolfram Hinzen (ICREA/Universitat de Barcelona) concerned *The Grammar of Essential Indexicality* and was followed by *Indicative Conditionals, Probabilistic Relevance and Discourse Structure* by Arno Goebel (University of Konstanz), *Does Fiction Make Sense? Understanding Fiction* by Crister Nyberg (University of Helsinki) and Lukáš Bielik's (Slovak Academy of Sciences) *Thought Experiments in Semantics: An (Apparent) Puzzle*.

The last day started with the last plenary lecture, namely Marián Zouhar's (Slovak Academy of Sciences) *Against Descriptivism: On an Essential Difference between Proper Names and Definite Descriptions* followed by the last three parallel sections. In them, Heimir Geirsson (Iowa State University) considered *Empty Names and Error Theory*, Luca Sbordon (University of Cambridge) accounted for *Vagueness, Contingency and Assessment-Sensitivity*, Martin Vacek (Slovak Academy of Sciences) discussed *Alien Properties and Impossible Worlds* and Halina Świączkowska, together with Beata Piecychna (both from the University of Białystok), provided some *Reflections on Some of the Issues of Rationalist Philosophy of Mind and Philosophy of Language. Remarks on the Margins of a Philosophical Discourse Concerning Speech* by Gerould de Cordemoy.

In words of the *PhiLang 2015* organizer, Piotr Stalmaszczyk, any conference is as good as its participants are. And although I have not listed every speaker that presented a paper, it is more that clear that the conference has again proven that it belongs among the most influential philosophical conferences in Europe. It has also showed that philosophy has a lot to say on the issues concerning language and linguistic and does thus contribute to the actual as well as traditional debates. All this being said, it is not a surprise that organizers plan yet another *PhiLang – PhiLang 2017*.

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