

## Modal Metaphysics: Issues on the (Im)Possible VI Bratislava, August 2-3, 2018<sup>1</sup>

Modal Metaphysics: Issues on the (Im)Possible conference has commenced its existence in 2013. This year, in 2018, the conference brought its 6<sup>th</sup> instalment aiming basically at the same thing as at the beginning: to overview the current research on modality. Be it metaphysics, epistemology, formal logic, semantics or fiction, all the presented papers proved the increasing interest in the field.

The conference kicked-off with two talks: Gaétan Bovey's (University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland) "Can 'Intrinsicity' Save the Existential-modal Account of Essence? A Critical Response to David Denby" commented by Karol Lenart, and Michael J. Raven's (University of Victoria, Canada & University of Washington, USA) "A Problem for Immanent Universals in States of Affairs" followed by Riccardo Baratella's comments. Daniel Milne-Plückebaum (Bielefeld University, Germany) then proposed "Meinongian Modal Meinongianism" and Matthew James Collier (University of Oxford) presented a paper "God Exists in all Possible Worlds: Anselmian Theism and Genuine Modal Realism" (commented by Daniel Berntson). The co-authored paper by Anand Jayprakash Vaidya (San José State University, USA) and Michael Wallner (University of Graz, Austria) motivated "Reductive and Non-Reductive Finean Essentialism" (commented by Gaétan Bovey) and Giacomo Giannini (Durham University, UK), followed by Sanna Mattila's reaction, approached "Resemblance, Representation, and Counterparts" trial. After it, Matthew James Collier discussed "Impossible authorships? Or how could Pierre Menard be the author of *The Quixote*" by Jorge Luis Méndez-Martínez (National Research University in Moscow, Russian Federation) and Sanna Mattila's (University of Helsinki, Finland) "Epistemology of Possibility and Reliabilism: a Challenge Considered" received comments from David Mark Kovacs. The last dual of talks were delivered by Michael De (University of Miami, USA) and Nathan Hawkins (Cambridge University, UK), commented by Michael Wallner and Matteo Pascucci, respectively. The end of the first

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day belonged to Gonzalo Rodriguez-Pereyra. His keynote lecture “Why is there Something Rather than Nothing? A Probabilistic Answer Examined” both presented the original Peter van Inwagen’s answer to the question ‘Why is there something rather than nothing?’ and challenged his argument by challenging two of its premises.

The second day of the conference started also with two parallel sessions: Fernando Furtado’s (University of Lisbon, Portugal) “S5- denying Approach to Relativised Metaphysical Modality” (commentated by Nathan Hawkins) and Daniel Bernston’s (Princeton University, USA) “Relational Possibility”. David Mark Kovacs (Tel Aviv University, Israel) delivered a paper entitled “Constitution, Dependence, and Mereological Hylomorphism” followed by Jorge Luis Méndez-Martínez’s comments and Giacomo Giannini commented on Riccardo Baratella’s (University of Padua, Italy) “Material Objects, Events, and Property Instances”. Karol Lenart (Jagiellonian University, Poland) with (Michael De assigned as his commentator) over-viewed “Essentialism, Haecceitism and AntiHaecceitism” while Daniela Glavaníčová and Miloš Kostelec reviewed Bjørn Jespersen’s (VSB-TU Ostrava, Czech Republic and University of Utrecht, Netherlands) “The Man without Properties: Impossible Individuals as Hyperintensions” contribution. The accepted talks ended up with Moritz Baron’s (The Universities of Stirling and St Andrews, Scotland) “Can Williamson’s Counterfactual-based Epistemology of Modality Explain our Knowledge of Mathematical Necessity?” (with Michael J. Raven as a commentator) and Cristina Nencha’s (University of Turin, Italy) “David Lewis and Kit Fine’s Essences”. The end of the conference fulfilled the second keynote lecture give by Sonia Roca-Royes. Roca-Royes explored the prospects of rationalist, concept-based epistemologies of modality and concluded that concepts have at most a limited role to play in the epistemology of essence (and de re modality).

For the first time the conference has a younger tense counterpart: Truth in Time and Open Future stream. The stream hosted five talks: Giacomo Andreoletti (University of Tyumen, Russian Federation): “Time Travel, Freedom, and Branching Time”; Michael De (University of Miami, USA): “The Open Future and Likelihood”; Vincent Grandjean (University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland): “How is the Asymmetry between the Open Future and the Fixed Past to be characterized?”; Tomáš Kollárik (Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia): “The Assertion Problem” and Elton Marques (University of Lisbon, Portugal): “Determinism, Eternalism and the Stheory”. Idle to say, we always gladly welcome all the contributions from all parts of the world. We do so by following a basic rule of any conference: a conference is as good as its participants are. This report verifies the validity of the rule and, hopefully, the next report will do the same.

*Martin Vacek*