

Activities of the Macedonian Philosophical Society

In the spirit of rounding up this passing year, the Macedonian Philosophical Society is pleased to share some news about its recent activities. Ever since its establishment by the UNESCO, we, the Macedonian Philosophical Society have been celebrating the World Philosophy Day with a symposium and sometimes additional events on the third Thursday of November, but this year we made November a “Month of Philosophy”. The month-long celebration of philosophy consisted of several events, organized by the Macedonian Philosophical Society and the Institute for philosophy at the Faculty of Philosophy (Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje) and was held at the Faculty of Philosophy. In the first fortnight, and in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Søren Kierkegaard, we had a guest lecturer from Slovenia, Doctor Primož Repar, who has translated Kierkegaard’s works in Slovenian, and is the director of the Central-European Research Institute of Søren Kierkegaard, with a public lecture on “The New Oikonomia of Relations and the Praxis of Existential Revolution”; as well as a public lecture by one of the members of the Society and of the Institute, Doctor Risto Solunčev, on “Don’t be Søren”. Both were attended not only by society members and students of the Faculty, but by many lovers of philosophy, who initiated interesting discussions and expressed their joy of such events.

The third week of November was dedicated to the World Day of Philosophy and celebrated by a scientific symposium, which this year, we are pleased to say, was held under the auspices of the President of Republic of Macedonia, law professor Gorge Ivanov. The President opened the symposium and gave a speech on the importance of philosophy, from a point of view both of a professor of political philosophy and law, and of a person who appreciates the role of philosophy in the contemporary world. The symposium, on the topic “Philosophy Today” consisted of ten papers presented, as well as a promotion of a book by Axel Honneth, translated in Macedonian in collaboration with the author. The symposium was dedicated to the emphasis of the significance of philosophy today, and to the need to incorporate different philosophical traditions in the contemporary research in philosophy, as well as to include a more pluri-perspective approach in handling philosophical issues. The media attention and the interest of the public were beyond our expectations and we can only be pleased by how philosophy becomes more and more acknowledged and appreciated.

In the last week of November there was another public lecture, this time by Professor Ivan Džeparoski, Head of the Institute for Philosophy, who contributed to the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the publication of Unamuno’s *El sentimiento tragico de la vida* by presenting his lecture on “Unamuno – 100 Years of Tragedy”. The very next day there was a promotion of the book *Non-Classical Logic* by Professor Ana Dimiskovska, a work that will serve as an essential tool for students and researchers in the field of non-classical logic.

October was a month in which an international conference on “2400 Years from the Founding of Plato’s Academy” took place at the Faculty of Philosophy,

where philosophers, linguists, anthropologists, sociologists and researchers from other scientific profiles shared different aspects of their research on Plato or Plato's academy, successfully bridging over different fields of exploration and schools of thought. After the exciting conference in October, we did not want to stop at November's celebrations, but in the spirit of keeping a sort of a "season of philosophy", we decided to make December a month of French philosophy. So far the French Institute (Institut français) in Skopje and the Embassy of France kindly extended their welcome for a lecture on Roland Barthes by Professor Ilinka Mitreva from the Department of French Studies at the Faculty of Philology, which brought together philologists and people passionate about the French culture and language, including interpreters and philosophers. Following a multi-disciplinary spree, the next lecture was on Paul Ricœur's hermeneutics by Academician Kata Kulavkova. Yet again, the jam-packed venue showed that philosophy flourishes when surrounded by related disciplines and open discussions from different perspectives. The month of philosophy finished with the lecture of Europhilosophie Erasmus Mundus Alumna Vera Hadzi-Pulja, who shed some light on the phenomenology of Levinas, engaging the audience in her account on the passage from deontology to meta-ontology.

We are also hoping to have more foreign guests-lecturers and we hope to strengthen our international connections, working towards a better inclusion of the Macedonian philosophical thought in the world.

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