

## Editorial

Dear readers,

It is with great pleasure that we announce the publication of the 35<sup>th</sup> issue of the journal *Филозофија/Filozofija*. For our editorial team, this issue is special in more than one way.

First, it brings about a significant change in the status of the journal itself: *Filozofija* now becomes an international, peer reviewed journal, with an editorial board and an advisory board composed of eminent domestic and international scholars in the field of philosophy. Established by a group of enthusiasts in 2001 and published by the Philosophical Society of Macedonia in cooperation with the Institute of Philosophy at the Faculty of Philosophy (Ss. Cyril and Methodius University – Skopje) until 2013, the journal has become an important forum for philosophical reflection, discussion, and development of philosophical thought in the Macedonian intellectual milieu. With this internationalization of the journal, now published by the Institute of Philosophy at the Faculty of Philosophy in cooperation with the Philosophical Society of Macedonia, our aim is to further enlarge this forum, to enrich and to deepen the communication with scholars working in the field of philosophy and related fields throughout the world, hoping that many of traditional and contemporary philosophical problems will be addressed in more efficient ways by such joint intellectual efforts. On this occasion, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to all our colleagues who, with their devoted work for more than a decade, succeeded not only to establish this journal but also to keep it vibrant and developing. Thus, we would like to thank the two former Editors-in-chief of *Filozofija*, Lazar Fotev, MA and Ljupcho Mitkovski, as well as all the previous members of its editorial and advisory boards, for creating such an invaluable ground for further intensification of our philosophical activity not only in the Macedonian, but also in the international context.

The second point of special significance regarding this issue of *Filozofija* is the choice of its topic – *Language, Context and Interpretation*. In its wide scope and many interconnected aspects of philosophical relevance, this topic reflects the main guiding principles that have inspired and will continue to inspire the intellectual profile of the journal. On the one hand, it is the principle of acknowledging the irreducible multiplicity and diversity of perspectives, cultural and social contexts from which the “human condition” is constituted; on the other hand - the principle of constant search for ways of bridging the gaps created by these differences, by developing productive forms of

communication both on an individual and on a collective level. And human language, by its dual nature of universality and particularity, its capacity for encoding the invariable elements of human relation to the world, but also the most specific, unique and idiosyncratic aspects of this relation as constitutive of our personal and social identity, is a phenomenon that makes it possible to pursue both goals simultaneously. Thus, it seemed adequate that the first international issue of the journal *Filozofija*, which, both by the breadth of its topics and the plurality of languages of publication practically affirms the value of “unity-friendly diversity”, be devoted to the problem of language and its many facets – phenomena that have been extensively treated from the origins of philosophical thought until nowadays.

The papers published in the section entitled “Topic of the issue” reflect this historical permanence of the problem of language as a philosophical topic, but also the richness of theoretical and methodological approaches applied in its treatment. The first two of these papers bring us back to the context of ancient philosophy, by shedding light on some aspects of Plato’s and Neoplatonic understanding of language and its relation to philosophical activity and reflection. Thus, Viktor Ilievski, in his paper “Language and Knowledge in Plato’s *Cratylus*”, starts from an analysis of the confrontation of naturalist and conventionalist thesis regarding the problem of the correctness of names, extensively treated in Plato’s *Cratylus*. He further investigates the implications of Plato’s eidetic epistemology for his general attitude towards language, concluding that one of the main points of the specific design of Plato’s dialectical method was the attempt to “avoid and overcome the pitfalls of language”. The paper by Anna Motta, “*Immagini di Bellezza. Questioni di metafisica neoplatonica*” (“Images of Beauty. Questions of Neoplatonic Metaphysics”) based on a detailed analysis of some fundamental Neoplatonic texts, puts the emphasis on the role of aesthetics in the educational field in the Late Antique context, demonstrating the close interconnectedness of language, exegesis and philosophy in that cultural and historical milieu. Her paper further investigates the specific cognitive, aesthetic and educational role played by the “mimetical speeches” in the Neoplatonic perspective, conceived of as “true language images of the intelligible”, i.e. different ways in which the Good reveals itself in the sensible world.

The next two papers in the “Topic of the issue” section introduce a specific contrast with the metaphysical preoccupations characteristic of the ancient views on language and deal with different questions inspired by the philosophy of language of one of the most prominent contemporary figures in this field – Ludwig Wittgenstein, focusing mainly on the later phase of his philosophical development. Thus, the paper by Hans Julius Schneider, “Is Wittgenstein’s Later Philosophy Therapeutic and Does This Mean That It Is Anti-Systematic?” elaborates the question of how much “theory” can be found in the later writings of Wittgenstein, in the light of Wittgenstein’s explicit preference of the “descriptive” over the “theoretical” stance. Establishing a productive dialogue with some of the most important contemporary interpretations of Wittgenstein’s approach

– like, for example, Dummett’s and McDowell’s interpretation – this paper explores new horizons for the application of Wittgenstein’s views on language. By following and further developing the approach suggested by Eugene Gendlin, the paper emphasizes the specificity and the potential of the creative use of language, which demonstrates the relevance of later Wittgenstein’s insights for other disciplines, like, for example, the discipline of psychotherapy.

Wittgenstein’s thoughts on language, more specifically, the controversy he initiated over the question whether an individual could master a language by himself/herself (the “private language argument”) represent a theoretical basis of Julien Kloeg’s paper “Community Rules: What Does Kripke’s Sceptical Paradox Imply For Private Language?”. Starting from Saul Kripke’s interpretation of Wittgenstein’s “private language” puzzle, this paper pleads for a novel conception of the phenomenon of rule-following, which relies on the more elaborated concept of “human community” and avoids the counter-intuitive implications of the Kripkean approach to the private language argument.

The last two papers included in the section “Language, context and interpretation” are focused on the questions of interpretation as one of the most important aspects of the functioning of language and our conceptual schemes in different social and cultural contexts. Thus, the paper by Réka Markovich, entitled “Is It Forbidden To Kill Someone? Relevance Theory’s Contribution to Deontic Logic” treats the question of interpretation of legal texts as a specific kind of texts with normative contents, by applying the conceptual apparatus of the contemporary deontic logic. More specifically, this paper explores the possibility to use the insights of the Relevance Theory in the realization of the fundamental tasks of deontic logic, especially in the area of norm semantics that sometimes requires retrieving information on the deontic status of certain expressions from textual context alone, without explicit presence of deontic operators.

Finally, Maja Muhić’s paper entitled “Интерпретативни модуси во културната антропологија: Искчокор кон нови креативни рефлексии за човештвото” (“The Interpretive Aspect of Cultural Anthropology: A Step towards New Creative Reflections on Humanity”) enlarges the range of questions concerning the phenomenon of interpretation by introducing the more general perspective of what is called “interpretive anthropology”. This is the discipline that, in the second half of the twentieth century, introduced an important shift in the area of social sciences, directed towards an “interpretive rethinking of human society”. By taking a critical stance towards the positivist approach to the study of social and cultural phenomena and bringing forth, at the same time, all the complexities of the interpretive turn in anthropology, the paper shows the important methodological and philosophical potential of the application of the interpretive, hermeneutic perspective to the study of human society.

Besides the papers included in the section “Language, context and interpretation” this issue also comprises one more paper in the “Varia” section – Leandro De Brasi’s paper entitled “Accidentality and Knowledge after Gettier”. Revisiting the issue

raised by Edmund Gettier's famous paper, "Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?", which gave new impetus to the epistemological research within the last few decades, this paper proposes a new approach "to the project of adding some accidentality blocker to true belief" in order to have knowledge. This new approach aims at replacing the strongly individualist orientation of the traditional epistemology with an orientation that also takes into consideration the social dimension of human practices and posits "a reflective endorsement of the knowledge-yielding procedures that can be met at the social level".

After the above-mentioned papers, in the "Book review" section, this issue includes Dejan Donev's review of the book by Željko Kaluđerović, "The Pre-Socratic Conceptions of Justice" which gives an analysis and a critical appraisal of the content, ideas and the scientific merit of Kaluđerović's book.

In that way, by displaying a productive convergence of ideas and approaches related not only to the field of philosophy of language, but also to the fields of logic, epistemology, aesthetics and philosophy of law, this issue of the journal reflects the richness and the diversity of contemporary philosophical thought explicitly or implicitly inspired by the phenomena of language and interpretation.

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At the end of this introduction of the 35th issue of Filozofija, we would like to give special thanks to the current members of the editorial and advisory boards, for their active participation in the shaping of the new format of this journal; to all the authors who submitted their work, for their trust and their preparedness to collaborate with our team; to the reviewers of the papers who generously agreed to give their professional opinions and recommendations for improving the quality of the content published in it; to the proofreaders, language and technical editors without whom the finalization of the work on the issue would have been impossible. Let's hope that the fruit of our collective efforts will open a new chapter in the history of the journal, by creating new forms of philosophical dialogue and reflection.

**Ana Dimishkovska**, Editor-in-chief