

The French Tradition of the Philosophy of the Body and Life **La tradition française de la philosophie du corps et de la vie**

A conference organized by the Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences
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Vila Lanna, V Sadech 1, 160 00 Prague 6

Summary of the colloquium:

The Institute of Philosophy (Department of Contemporary Continental Philosophy) of the Czech Academy of Sciences is organizing an international colloquium on the *French Tradition of the Philosophy of the Body and Life*. It proposes as a task an interpretation of its birth in the thought of Descartes and Maine de Biran, its plural and apparently equivocal continuation and discussion in Bergson, Canguilhem, Ruyer, and Merleau-Ponty's philosophies, and finally its revival in the confrontation between phenomenology and its major critiques: Deleuzian, Ricoeurian and Foucauldian thoughts, moving from the question of the body towards the question of life. By inviting several specialists of these thoughts – mostly French and Czech researchers – the major task of the colloquium is thus to reveal the unifying path which properly makes this question of the body a “tradition”, even an obsession of French philosophy, leading towards a specific questioning of sciences, ethics, power, and gender studies.

Resumé:

Plánovaná mezinárodní konference je zaměřena na francouzskou tradici filosofie tělesnosti. Jejím cílem by měla být interpretace zrození filosofie tělesnosti v dílech Descarta a Maine de Birana, pokračování této filosofie u Bergsona, Canguilhema, Ruyera a Merleau-Pontyho, jakož i znovuoživení této filosofie v konfrontaci fenomenologie s jejími hlavními kritiky: Deleuzem, Ricoeurem a Foucaultem, kteří celou diskusi posouvají od otázky těla k otázce života. Vzhledem k pozvání několika specialistů na tyto koncepce – převážně francouzských a českých badatelů – je hlavním úkolem konference odkrytí jednotící linie, jež činí z otázky těla „tradicí“, či dokonce obsesi francouzské filosofie, a určuje ji napříč rozmanitostí různých přístupů k dané problematice, což vede ke specifickému pohledu na vědu, etiku, moc a otázku genderu.

Résumé:

Ce colloque sur la tradition française de la philosophie du corps et de la vie vise d'abord la discussion de l'idée même d'une "tradition", si ce n'est d'une obsession de la philosophie française pour la question du corps, en retissant les fils épars de dialogues parfois anachroniques et souvent surprenants, tant les questions qui les sous-tendent changent en apparence : de Biran à Ravaisson, Merleau-Ponty, Ruyer, Bergson, jusqu'à Deleuze ou Foucault, nous questionnerons ainsi un même héritage, qui de la question du corps s'achemine toujours davantage vers la question de la vie, jusqu'à renouveler en profondeur les problématiques scientifiques mais aussi éthiques, et les questions de pouvoir et de genre. Et cet héritage, il s'agira aussi et enfin de le mettre en regard tant de la pensée allemande que de la phénoménologie tchèque.

With the participation of:

Frédéric Worms (director of the CIEPFC/International Centre of research on French contemporary philosophy, and professor at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris)

Anne Devarieux (University of Normandie, Caen, France)

Mary Beth Mader (University of Memphis, TN/USA, residence in Paris)

Pierre Rodrigo (University of Bourgogne, Dijon, France)

Karel Novotný (Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Charles University, FHS, Prague)

Arnaud François (University of Toulouse Jean Jaurès, Toulouse, France)

Claudia Serban (University of La Sorbonne, Paris 4, France)

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Jiří Pechar (Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague)

Claire Marin (Lycée Alfred Kastler de Cergy-Pontoise, France)

Jakub Čapek (Charles University, FF, Prague)

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