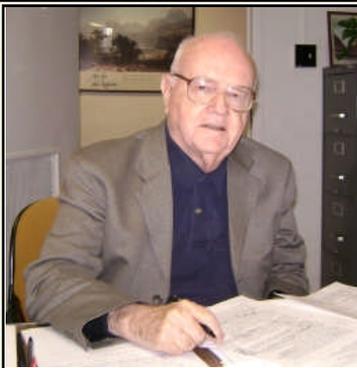




# Council for Research in Values and Philosophy



Spring 2011



## Message from the President :

The work of the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (RVP) has been advancing rapidly with the needs of the times. You will find greater detail on the following pages, but below is a summary of some key themes, all of which are also designated regional conferences of the International Federation of Philosophical Societies (FISP).

**Regional Centers:** Their development enables greater structure for the RVP network in promoting research in philosophy related to the global character of life.

**-A Center in Beirut:** In addition to the Center in Washington, Professor Edward Alam has built an RVP Center in Lebanon to be dedicated this coming May. He has done much to develop work in Ghana, Nigeria and East Africa, as well as cooperation with

scholars in Tehran, India and Moscow.

**-A Center in Shanghai:** Its inauguration will be in June with special attention to the role of Chinese culture in global times. Professor Vincent Shen discussed with Professors Yu Wujin, Wang Xinsheng, Sun Xiangchen and Zou Shipeng at Fudan University the orientation of the new Center. This will be followed by the Southeast regional RVP meeting, this year in Hanoi.

**Seminars:** Three to five week seminars for research on the themes: cosmopolitical dimensions of Islamic philosophy in Beirut, responsibility personal and social in a global age, and human identity/nature as stable and/or changing in Washington, D.C.

**A Set of 8 Research Teams** is carrying out a yet more extended three year project in response to Charles Taylor's *A Secular Age* on the evolution of the value horizons of our global times.

**Publications:** 10 new volumes expand the 250 volume series with the results of the work of research teams in the RVP network in all parts of the world.

This issue of the RVP newsletter is a report on the work accomplished and in process. Especially it is a expression of thanks and an invitation to philosophers, thinkers and scholars across the world to join in this effort and put their special creative competencies at the service of their people in this time of dynamic change. Please write of your interests and plans.

The RVP wishes to thank the Ford, H&L Bradley and Raskob Foundations, as well as the OSVI and OST for their generous support.

George F. McLean

March, 2011



## SEMINARS IN 2011

### Spring Seminar 2011: The Cosmopolitical Dimensions of Islamic Thought

May 18-31, 2011

Beirut, Lebanon

Notre Dame University in Lebanon, which now houses the RVP's second major center (complementing the activity of the center in Washington, D.C.) will bring together prominent Islamic philosophers for a three week seminar on the cosmopolitical dimensions of Islamic philosophy. Professor Richard Khuri's seminal book, *Freedom, Modernity, and Islam* will orient the discussions; major papers by prominent international scholars shall be presented and critiqued. The majority of activity will take place on the campus of Notre Dame University, though a number of excursions will take place including an extended stay at the Cedars of Lebanon overlooking the Valley of the Saints, where the discussion and presentation of papers will continue.



The culmination of the seminar on May 29, will be the inauguration of the RVP center on the campus of Notre Dame University wherein the President of the University, together with Lebanese dignitaries, will officially dedicate the establishment and work of the center. Notre Dame University, the Iranian Institute of Philosophy, and local sponsors, have all pledged support for this landmark occasion.

### Fall Seminar 2011: Responsibility Personal and Social: Foundations for Life in a Global Age

August 22-September 28, 2011

Washington, D.C.

#### The Challenge

Modernity has been marked by a strong sense of individuals in competition, whether persons or nations; its economic, political and legal institutions have been constructed on this basis. This brought great new rational capabilities for the control and manipulation of the objects of our material world and made possible new and at times surprising ways for the affirmation of human freedom. Breaking through the natural barriers that for so long kept peoples in isolation from one another, it now engaged the rich philosophical and cultural heritages of the East with those of Ancient Greece and Rome, and vice versa. The result is a time of great challenge and great possibility.

Because what is in question is the distinctive character of contemporary civilization, any response must take into account the plurality associated with the human condition. It must consider what counts as knowledge in order to assure that the mind is adequately open to the issues of ethical concern and to perceive the new insights emerging from the cultural interchange of humanity.

It must also examine the proper constitution of human persons and recognize their creative imagination for cooperation towards achieving a “better world”. This in turn must be viewed not only in human terms but also in terms of a more balanced and respectful interaction with physical nature. In other words, any response to the challenges presented by human civilization at the present stage must take into account all that is relevant to a more authentic determination of human action and indeed of being or reality as such in order to integrate the new insights already available and to develop those required for a constructive response to the present global crisis.



### Response

Global pressures now generate a renewed sense of the urgency to efforts to overcome the excesses of the present paradigm based on individualism, and to begin thinking in more wholistic terms on a global scale. This requires the cultivation of new capabilities to break beyond self-interest and incorporate thinking in relational terms. The goal, therefore, is to foster an understanding of being human for which the condition of being a member of society — as family, community, and indeed the global whole — is essential. In other words, the issue here is the realization of an wholistic sense of human existence and thereby promoting mutual understanding and a constructive peace among human beings, cultures and nations, religions and civilizations. In the words of Emmanuel Levinas, this is a humanism of the other, radically open to neighbor and willing to assume radical openness to the transcendent.



The seminar will explore possibilities for the renewal of the ethical life in our global age, emphasizing two fundamental concepts, namely, responsibility and justice. This will enable both philosophical articulation and practical implementation of an ethical order that in the circumstances of our *lebenswelt* underscores the value of life and action in ways that are ever more responsible and in accord with justice.

In order to facilitate this conversation among the participants and to stimulate the personal reflection of each one of its members, the seminar will be structured in four distinct moments:

1. The principles of responsibility (with Max Weber and Hans Jonas);
2. The nature of responsibility (with Emmanuel Levinas);
3. The transition from responsibility to justice (with Paul Ricoeur); and
4. The relevance of the cultural contributions from Asian, African and Latin-American thought, as well as the perspectives derived from world religions.

**Application for Participation:** Applications for participation in this seminar should be sent by email by April 1, 2011, to [cua-rvp@cua.edu](mailto:cua-rvp@cua.edu) and include:

- a vita,
- a list of the applicants' publications,
- an application letter indicating your special interest in the seminar theme, and
- an abstract of a study(s) you might present as an integral part of the seminar.

## Central and Eastern Europe

### Bucharest, Romania

*Bucharest, Romania*, June 3-4, 2011: The Faculty of Philosophy of The University of Bucharest and the RVP will co-sponsor a conference on “Values of the Human Person: Contemporary Challenges”. The aim of this conference is to focus attention on the values of the human person considered under the impact of the contemporary process of globalization. Paradoxically, the continuous qualitative increase and diversification of knowledge can cause great fragmentation in the human understanding of oneself and of one’s cultural and social environment. This threatens human civilization in new ways and addresses new challenges to the humanities, knowledge and culture, arts, natural and human sciences. These call in turn for a diagnosis of classical, modern and postmodern models of theoretical, scientific, political and artistic thinking with regard to the main values of the human life. The discussion of these issues will serve as a propedeutic to the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Congress of Philosophy in Athens, 2013, whose theme is “Philosophy as Inquiry and Way of Life”.

Contact: Professor Romulus Brancoveanu, Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy ([rbrancoveanu@yahoo.com](mailto:rbrancoveanu@yahoo.com)); Professors Mihaela Pop ([pop.mihaela.a@gmail.com](mailto:pop.mihaela.a@gmail.com)), Savu Totu and Viorel Vizureanu; The Faculty of Philosophy, The University of Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania



UNIVERSITY  
OF BUCHAREST  
VIRTUTE ET SAPIENTIA

## Asia

### Beijing, P.R.China

*Beijing, P.R. China*, June 18-19: The School of International Relations, University of International Business and Economy and the RVP will cosponsor an international conference on “Urbanization and Community Building--China and the World”.

Chinese society has witnessed an unprecedented scale of migration from rural areas to cities.



對外經濟貿易大學  
University of International Business and Economics

This raises many questions, e.g., how do these immigrants fit into the new city life ; how does the municipal administration accommodate the newcomers; how can Chinese traditional cultures and values contribute to the modern process of urbanization, and vice versa; is there a Chinese model of urbanization; what experience and lessons can Chinese policy makers and leaders of other developing nations borrow from one another? These questions pose challenges to scholars of political science, sociology and philosophy.

The conference organizers propose for discussion such themes as:

1. Political participation of the floating population in Chinese urbanization.
2. The social integration and community building of the new urban immigrants

3. The interaction of traditional and modern culture and values in the process of urbanization and community building .

4. Case studies of urbanization and community building.

For further information, contact: Professors Dai Changzhong (daicz@126.com), Dean, and Wang Bo (bowhu@163.com), Assistant Dean, The School of International Relations, University of International Business and Economy, Beijing



### Wuhan, P.R.China

*Wuhan P.R. China*, June 21-22: School of Philosophy, Wuhan University and the RVP will cosponsor a conference on “Dialogue between Confucianism and Christianity”. Dialogue is the deep exchange between the human efforts and experiences of peoples’ striving for human self-realization and fulfillment. As Confucianism and Christianity each bring rich but still limited insight regarding human nature and existence, the dialogue between the two has the intrinsic promise of complementarity and mutual enrichment. It promises productive contributions for facing common predicaments



through searching for harmonious co-existence in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

This conference on “Dialogue between Confucianism and Christianity” will constitute an academic exchange of faith and reason on the deep concerns of our times. You are invited to take part in this important discussion.



Paper submission: abstract April 1,

full paper May 10, 2011.

For further information, contact:

Professor Zhai Zhihong  
The School of Philosophy  
Wuhan University  
Wuhan, P.R. China  
[zhong707@yahoo.com.cn](mailto:zhong707@yahoo.com.cn)



武汉大学

Wuhan University



## Shanghai: Research Center for the Study of Chinese Culture in Global Context

### Shanghai: Fudan University

Shanghai, P.R. China, June 26-27, 2011 “Revitalizing Chinese Culture: Values and Virtues for a Global Age”. As the focus of China’s life expands from nation building to global engagement, China is challenged to establish its proper place in the greater world community. Over the last century, for its modernization China has drawn ideas from the West. There are reasons to believe that progress now requires that it add a reverse flow whereby it shares its vision with the world and assumes leadership in the shaping of the newly global times.

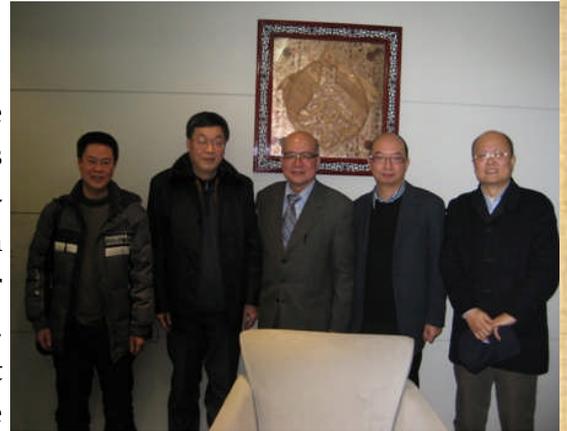
In sum, in recent decades China has risen to a leading position in the world economy, based on profit; now it begins to play a special role as well in the political order, based on power. Both of these are limited, however, and hence tend to engender competition. In this context the greater the success the greater the suspicion regarding motivation, followed by resistance that slows further progress.

To counter this dynamism it becomes urgent to begin to focus on another order of reality where what is had by one can be shared with, and supportive of, others, and this without being lost to its originator. This is the field of culture which reflects the deep values, inspiration and aspirations of a people through the ages. Hence, in the evolving global context as we enter the 21st century a key element for the success of China will lie in its being perceived not as competitor or threat, but as realizing its own special genius and sharing this with others. On this basis China can be the sought-after partner, a path finder for the human community in facing its challenges and in shaping the global human future.

The conference to inaugurate the new Center for the Study of Chinese Culture and Values in the Global Context (SCCV) at Fudan University will be held at its School of Philosophy on June 26-27, 2011 (languages: Chinese and English). It will explore how China can revitalize its cultural values and virtues in response to the above challenges and contribute its dynamic “soft power” to the future of the global community. Sample topics include:

- The significance of Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist, and Chinese Marxist values and virtues for revitalizing Chinese Culture;
- Possible Chinese contributions to the challenge of globalization;
- An integral philosophical project for the new Fudan Center for the Study of Chinese Culture and Values in the Global Context;

For further information please contact: Professor Wang Xinsheng, Director, Center for the Study of Chinese Culture and Values in the Global Contexts (SCCV), School of Philosophy, Fudan University, Shanghai, P.R. China; Email: xswang@fudan.edu.cn



### Shanghai: Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

*Shanghai, P.R. China, June 28, 2011.* The Institute of Philosophy of the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences with the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy will host a discussion on "The Role of Philosophy". The goal of the discussion is to explore the role and nature of philosophy in contemporary life; its relation to the rapid development of social sciences and humanities; and how Chinese philosophers can make their own proper contribution in these global times. This will help to prepare the 2013 World Congress of Philosophy in Athens on "Philosophy as Inquiry and Way of Life".

For Further information, contact: Professor He Xirong, Institute of Philosophy, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, Shanghai, P.R. China, [hxr@sass.org.cn](mailto:hxr@sass.org.cn).



### Urumqi: Xinjiang University

*Urumqi: Xinjiang University, July 13, 2009* "Local Culture and Social Progress".

*Theme:* The Xinjiang region is the frontier of two great civilizations. If a civilization is the cumulative achievement of a set of cultures evolved over the millennia as a concrete way of striving for human fulfillment, then this border situation is now of the greatest moment. As we enter the global age life today is characterized not simply by one or another single culture or civilization, but by the interaction of multiple civilizations as constituting a global whole. Its nature will be determined by the way in which the multiple civilizations, like gigantic tectonic plates, interact and adjust to one another. This suggests the particular importance for human progress of the dynamics of the intersection of Chinese and Islamic civilizations, each some 20 percent of humanity, as they intersect in Xinjiang and are mutually transformed thereby. What is the basis and degree of such mutual compatibility and complementarity; how can potential conflict be transformed into mutual reinforcement; can change be progressive for all concerned? These crucial issues will be considered in this colloquium.

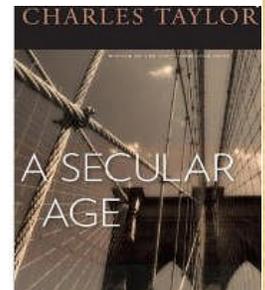


For further information, contact: Professor Chen Shiming, Center for the Study of Northwestern Culture, Xijiang University, Urumqi, Xijiang, P.R. China, [xjdxcsn@163.com](mailto:xjdxcsn@163.com).



**Secular and Sacred**

*Vienna, Austria and Dublin, Ireland*, June and September: "Secular and Sacred". An extended research project has been developed on the basis of Charles Taylor's *A Secular Age*. The series of eight teams ranges from the scientific, socio-political and cultural horizons to deepening the sense of religion in terms of sacrifice and service. Begun in the U.S. the last sections will now continue in Austria and Ireland. For further information, contact:

**Biannual South East Asian Regional Conference****Hanoi, Vietnam**

*Hanoi, Vietnam*, July 7-8, 2011, The Institute of Philosophy of The Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) and the RVP are co-sponsoring the biennial Southeast Asian regional conference on



"Cultural Traditions and Sustainable Development". This theme has itself evolved in three broad strokes. At first "development" was understood as an economic phenomenon. Second it was noted that as development projects could have

relatively brief or even negative effect it was necessary to plan with a view to their sustainability. Third the United Nations agencies discovered that a major indicator of such sustainability was whether in the planning those effected were consulted so that their cultural traditions and expectations could be taken into account.

All of this was brought together by the Indian scholar, Amartya Sen, in his thematization of development as freedom. This focuses on human capabilities as both processes and opportunities which enable people to do and be what they value, for which he was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize. This raises a number of specific issues such as: (1) what should be considered authentic development, (2) the conditions for sustainability, (3) the relation to cultural traditions as enabling and/or impeding development, and (4) the significance of this for intercultural relations in global times within Southeast Asia and with other world regions in terms of economics, politics and human dignity.

To register please contact Professor Pham Van Duc, Director of the Institute of Philosophy, Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences ([ducphilosophy@yahoo.com](mailto:ducphilosophy@yahoo.com)) and Mr. Tran Tuan Phong ([tphong59@yahoo.com.au](mailto:tphong59@yahoo.com.au)).

**Vientiane, Laos**

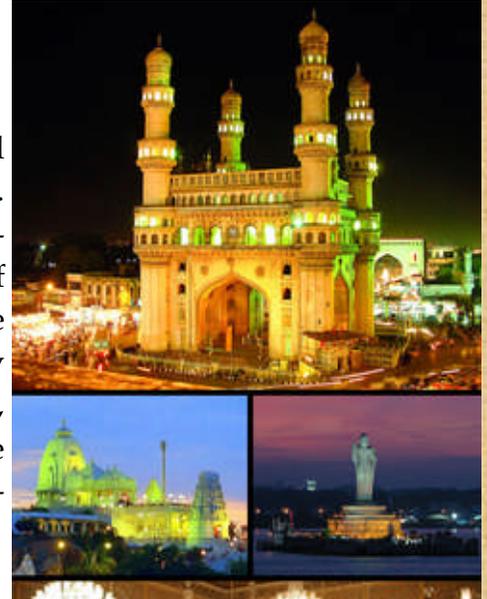
*Vientiane, Laos*, July 10-11: "Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Change". Representatives of the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy will conduct an academic visit to the Institute of Political Sciences, Laos National Academy of Sciences, Vientiane, Laos. The purpose of the visit is to promote the sharing by Laotian philosophers in the work of the Southeast Asian RVP region. This focuses on the rich cultural values and virtues for facing contemporary challenges and bringing forward the rich contributions of each country and people, particularly for this global age.



## WORK ACCOMPLISHED BY THE RVP IN 2010

### Hyderabad, India

*Hyderabad, India*, January 12 – 22, 2011: The RVP has strengthened its ties with the Indian Council for Philosophical Research (ICPR). Together with the Henry Martyn Institute in Hyderabad, it submitted an initial draft of a proposal to the ICPR to host a conference of international Islamic scholars in 2012 to examine the broad theme of faith and reason in Islam. Hyderabad is home to a rich variety of Islamic communities: Sufi, Suni, Shiites (Twelvers, Seveners, etc.); the seminar will draw local scholarly participation from these communities. The results will be published in the RVP book series “Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Change”.



### Bangalore, India

*Bangalore, India*, January 5–21, 2011: The RVP was represented at an international conference in Bangalore, where important contacts were made with leading philosophers from India, and other parts of Asia. In meetings of the RVP General Secretary and Asian philosophers, a consensus was reached that, given, on the one hand, the modern reduction of the field of reason to the instrumental and the empirical, and, on the other hand, the increase of “new age” spiritualities that deny the authenticity of “the rational”, it is necessary to work towards providing the necessary foundations for genuine philosophical experience. There was substantial agreement that even genuine mysticism tends to surface in traditions, such as the Vedic, that have strong and persistent intellectual/rational dimensions, without this being reduced to its calculating aspects. These do not neglect cultivating the *wisdom* dimensions of reason that are open to an imminent transcendence; rather than being irrational, these complement and perfect the rational. The promise of future RVP seminars in India and other parts of Asia focusing on their rich cultural heritages and its contribution to present transformations was indicated by the enthusiasm and commitment regarding the importance and relevance of these issues.



## The International Society for Islamic Philosophy (ISIP)

*The International Society for Islamic Philosophy (ISIP)* (email: [isisphy@gmail.com](mailto:isisphy@gmail.com)) was founded by the scholars participating in a special RVP seminar on Islamic philosophy in 2008. It was formally launched during the XXII World Congress of Philosophy in Seoul, Korea where Professor Ghulamreza Aawani was elected President for the term of 2009–2014.

In January, 2009, ISIP co-sponsored with the RVP a set of conferences across Java, Indonesia and held its first organizational and administrative meeting. The third such meeting was held in November 2010 in conjunction with the UNESCO-sponsored *World Philosophy Day* in Tehran.

The ISIP sees 'Islamic Philosophy' as embracing broadly logic, the natural sciences, theology, and ethics, as well as epistemic, aesthetic, cosmological, metaphysical and spiritual disciplines within the historical and global context of the civilization of Islam. Thus, 'Islamic' philosophic thought and activity integrates rational and ethical dimensions of knowledge-realization with the human aspiration to apprehend Self, Nature, and the One Real. Membership is open to all individuals engaged in research into Islamic philosophy and allied disciplines promoting the teaching and study of these dimensions.

ISIP works to solidify a global network of individuals and institutions from diverse geographical and cultural contexts collaborating in critical reflection on philosophic issues across societies in civilizational exchange. Through such collaboration ISIP seeks to refresh the creative spirit of the Islamic intellectual and ethical heritage, and to integrate timeless philosophic concerns and values in the contemporary scene. The Society is committed to deep reflection on the application of these values for global civilizational challenges posed by our increasingly secularist cosmopolitan world. ISIP intends to open space for diverse philosophic voices within Muslim societies in the light of contemporary knowledge disciplines, and to ensure an intensified relevance and adequacy of Islamic philosophic activity in the public sphere. To this end, it facilitates seminars, fora, conferences and publications on Islamic Philosophy in order to develop and disseminate the fruits of research and reflection; and publishes the journal *Philosophia Islamica*. The Society will support related scientific, literary, educational, artistic, religious and philosophic activities complementing the above objectives.

**Membership Lists** will include institutional mailing addresses, accurate titles, and full contact information for every regional section of ISIP. Membership Fee: \$50

**Networking:** A list of affiliated institutes, universities, organizations, and governmental and non-governmental bodies will expand the ISIP network to the benefit of its members' philosophic & intellectual work.

**Website:** An English language site will be constructed first; Arabic, Persian, etc., will devolve on regional chapters, with support from the central site.

**International journal** for Islamic philosophy: *Philosophia Islamica*.

**Publications:** monographs or book series is foreseen.



**2010 Seminar: Human Identity/Nature: Stable and/or Changing?**

Washington, D.C., October 18-November 19, 2010: The RVP annual five week Fall Seminar was held with a focus on the understanding of human identity/nature as stable and/or changing.

Scholars from Brazil, China, Congo, India, Iran, Kenya, Lebanon, Nigeria, Poland, Russia, Senegal, and the U.S. presented papers on different perspectives according to their own cultural traditions.

Professors William McBride, President of the International Federation of Philosophical Societies (FISP) and Luca M. Scarantino, General Secretary of FISP took part and spoke to the issue.

The resulting study will be published under the same title by the RVP. For further information, see [www.crvp.org](http://www.crvp.org).



**Moscow, Russia**

Moscow, Russia, November 25-27, 2011: The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of The Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (RPFU), Moscow, organized an international conference on "The Dialog of Civilizations in a Post-crisis World" on the occasion of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Participants from Bulgaria, Canada, France, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Portugal, USA, Ukraine, etc., discussed such issues as the nature of the modern crisis; ontological and epistemological foundations of the dialog of civilizations; the dialog of philosophical cultures; foundations for this dialog in the post-crisis world; approaches, thematics and categorical constructions of the dialog of civilizations.



Peoples' Friendship University of Russia



The RVP has a long history of cooperation with the RPFU, which has hosted a number of joint conferences over the years while many of its professors have taken part in the RVP annual fall seminars.

### Poznan, Poland

*Poznan, Poland*, June 24-26, 2010: The Institute of Philosophy, Adam Mickiewicz University and the RVP co-sponsored an international conference at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland on "Religion and the Public Sphere".

Some 30 scholars took part in the conference. They came from Australia, Austria, Belarus, China, Germany, Holland, Hungary, India, Iran, Lebanon, Romania, Russia, Singapore, and Ukraine, as well as from Poland. The presentation of papers on this important issue led to insightful discussions. The resulting proceedings will be published under the same title.



### Lviv, Ukraine

*Lviv, Ukraine*, June 29-30, 2010. The Department of Philosophy, Ivan Franko University and the RVP co-sponsored a major conference on "The Identity and Dignity of the Person in a Global Age" which focused upon human identity under the paradigmatic changes in the development of informational technologies, global communication and their unprecedented cultural penetration.

The conference was attended by more than 120 participants from Ukraine and 25 scholars from Albania, Australia, Bulgaria, Holland, India, Lebanon, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, USA, etc. Professor Peter Kozlovsky from Holland gave a special lecture during the conference on the topic of the human person and identity. The papers will be published under the same title as the conference in the RVP book series.



## Africa

## Lagos, Nigeria

*Lagos, Nigeria*, April 19-22, 2010: The University of Lagos and the RVP cosponsored a conference on *Higher Education and Peace Culture: Whither Africa?* Particularly promising was the expressed desire on the part of prominent philosophers in Nigeria to establish an RVP chapter at the University of Lagos. Presently, the details of this agreement are being worked out. Professor Joseph Agbakoba of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, the RVP area coordinator, represented the RVP at this conference.



University of Lagos, Nigeria



Knowledge through Learning and Research

## Kampala, Uganda

*Kampala, Uganda*, February 10–14, 2010: Meetings between the RVP General Secretary and members of the Philosophy Department at Makerere University reviewed the earlier publication of their three volumes and planned future seminars and publications. The Dean of the Faculty of Arts participated in the meetings and pledged full support for joint RVP/Makerere activities.



## Nairobi, Kenya

*Nairobi, Kenya*, February 7–10, 2010: Meetings between the RVP General Secretary and members of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies of the University of Nairobi took place in order to review past conferences and publications and to plan future seminars and publications.



**For more information on the works, projects and Publications of the Council  
for Research in Values and Philosophy, please visit website: [www.crvp.org](http://www.crvp.org)**

### Cape Coast, Ghana

*Cape Coast, Ghana*, February 3-5, 2010: The Department of Classics and Philosophy at the University of Cape Coast and the RVP co-sponsored an international conference on intercultural philosophy, which brought together scholars from Canada, Bulgaria, Lebanon, Nigeria, and Ghana. This was designated as well a regional conference of the International Federation of Philosophical Societies (FISP), as are all RVP conferences. Professor Raymond Osei of Cape Coast organized the conference under the title “Universalism, Relativism, and Intercultural Philosophy”.

In his keynote address, Professor William Sweet of Canada addressed the complex role of migrating texts and traditions in intercultural philosophy, raising many central and difficult questions that solicited a plethora of animated responses from the over 50 scholars in attendance. In a paper titled “Reflections on Intercultural Philosophy: Avoiding the Extremes”, the RVP General Secretary also raised a number of questions meant to better define what is meant by intercultural philosophy. He noted the work of late Kenyan Philosopher, H. Odera Oruka, and his mentor at the University of Nairobi, Joseph Donders, on “sage philosophy” and the dynamic interplay between what Oruka called popular and didactic wisdoms. Plans are underway to publish the proceedings of the conference. A delegation from the conference traveled from Cape Coast to Accra and met with the head of the Philosophy Department of the University of Ghana, Professor Helen Lauer, to discuss future RVP activities in Ghana and the upcoming annual conference of the International Society for African Philosophy and Studies (ISAPS), to be held at the University of Ghana in March, 2010.



### Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

*Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*, January 27-February 2, 2010: Professor Workineh Kelbessa, RVP coordinator in East Africa, invited RVP General Secretary, Edward Alam, to Addis Ababa University to discuss the development of the RVP network in East Africa. The network already has a presence and history in Uganda and Kenya reaching back to a major meeting on “Society and Truth” at the University of Nairobi in 1980 and the publication of three volumes from Makerere University, Uganda. The present aim is to encourage cooperation and collaboration among all the East African countries. While there, Professor Alam gave a paper on purifying the concepts of development, philosophy and culture to the faculty and students of Addis Ababa University. Other meetings with the Chairman and Faculty members of the Philosophy Department and with graduate students discussed modes of continuing this collaboration. An agreement was reached to pursue a formal RVP/Addis Ababa University memorandum of understanding to promote teams of researchers from Ethiopia to mine their own rich and ancient cultural and philosophical heritages in order better to meet contemporary challenges.



**New Books Published in 2010 in the RVP Series:  
“Cultural Heritages and Contemporary Change”**

- **I.37** George F. McLean, *Beyond Modernity: The Recovery of Person and Community in Global Times: Lectures in China and Vietnam*. ISBN 9781565182578 (paper).
- **I.38** George F. McLean, *Religion and Culture*. ISBN 9781565182561 (paper).
- **III.28** *Cultural Tradition and Social Progress, Chinese Philosophical Studies, XXVIII*. He Xirong, Yu Xuanmeng, Yu Xintian, Yu Wujing, Yang Junyi, eds. ISBN 978-1-56518-266-0 (Paper).
- **IVA.33** *Diversity and Dialogue: Culture and Values in a Global Age*. Andrew Blasko and Plamen Makariev, eds. ISBN 978-1-56518-238-7 (paper).
- **IVA.39** *Knowledge and Belief in the Dialogue of Cultures, Russian Philosophical Studies, III*. Marietta Stepanyants, ed. ISBN 978-1-56518-262-2 (paper).
- **IVA.40** Józef Życiński (†), *God and Post-Modern Thought: Philosophical Issues in the Contemporary Critique of Modernity, Polish Philosophical Studies, IX*. ISBN 978-1-56518-267-7 (paper).
- **IVA.41** *Dialogue among Civilizations, Russian Philosophical Studies, IV*. Nur Kirabaev and Yuriy Pochta, eds. ISBN 978-1-56518-265-3 (paper).
- **V.6** *A New World: A Perspective from Ibero America*, H. Daniel Dei, ed. ISBN 978-1-56518-263-9 (paper).
- **VII.25** *Globalization and Identity*. Andrew Blasko, Taras Dobko, Pham Van Duc, George Pattery, eds. ISBN 978-1-56518-239-4 (paper).

**Full text of RVP titles available for free download on the web and  
also in the Google Book Partner Program**

One major project in 2009 was the uploading of the full text (in html free downloadable format) of all RVP books and their individual chapters to [www.crvp.org](http://www.crvp.org). Please see the “publications” pages of that website.

Additionally, full text, exact image versions of all RVP books are now available through the Google Book Search Partner Program. Though not downloadable there, all pages of each book appear in exact image for word search and research citation. Search by name of book, author, or individual chapter at [www.books.google.com](http://www.books.google.com).



The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (RVP) is a 501C3 not-for-profit entity with the following goals, objectives and operations.

#### Goals:

To understand and appreciate the cultures and values that shape aspirations and motivate actions.

To understand one's own and other cultures and develop a positive yet critical appreciation thereof.

To build cooperation among peoples by providing horizons that heal deep tensions and promote peace and cooperation on a global scale.

#### Objectives:

To mobilize research teams to study the nature, interpretation and development of cultures and to apply them to the challenges of contemporary change.

To publish and distribute the results of these efforts.

To organize extended seminars for deeper exploration of these issues and regional conferences for the coordination of this work.

#### Operations:

Research teams applying the resources of the cultural traditions to contemporary issues, and six to ten week annual seminars in Washington, D.C., for international scholars and representatives of the research teams.

Regional meetings for mutual critique and planning by these teams, and periodic world conferences for exchange of results on a global level.

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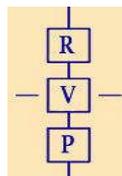
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