

# Council for Research in Values and Philosophy



## RVP Newsletter — Winter 2012/Spring 2013

### 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 RVP efforts and their themes.

We find ourselves at a point of major transition from a world order based upon separate and competing nations to a global order in which modes of cooperation become newly possible and indeed imperative. This entails a set of new philosophical challenges, which, in turn, constitute an urgent call for a corresponding set of creative philosophical responses.

**Challenges** include developments e.g.: in epistemology in order to integrate both scientific insight with cultural meaning; in social theory in order to integrate new senses of self and person with the social values of equality, rights and justice; and in metaphysics and religion in order to integrate the world's distinctive cultural traditions as ways of life with the liberation of the human spirit for new levels of human meaning based on such values as compassion, love and benevolence.

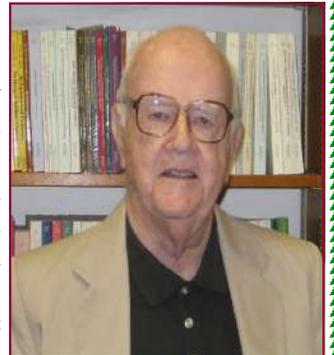
**In response** the RVP has been at work on the following broad range of integrated in-depth efforts in philosophy across the world:

- **Pre-World Congress Conference**, Athens, August 1-3, 2013 (immediately preceding the World Congress of Philosophy). This will explore in-depth “**Culture and Philosophy as Ways of Life in Times of Global Change.**” See also the coordinated conference “**Philosophy and Crisis**” at Ioannina, Greece, July 28-30, 2013.
- **Seminars**: Annual Fall five week seminar for 2013 will be in Washington, D.C.: “**Justice and Responsibility: Cultural and Philosophical Considerations**” September 9-October 11, 2013. In 2012 three such extended research seminars with international scholars were held in the Spring and Fall in Washington, D.C. and in the Fall at the RVP Center in Beirut which Edward J. Alam coordinates.
- **Conferences**: The RVP cosponsored 15 international conferences in 2012 in many parts of the world, all of which are designated also as regional conferences of the International Federation of Philosophical Societies (FISP). Conferences in 2013 are in the process of planning in East Asia, Central Asia, South East Asia, the Middle East, etc. For detailed information on the 2012 themes and contributions see below and/or visit the RVP website [www.crvp.org](http://www.crvp.org).
- **Research Teams**: The RVP is especially interested in promoting extended locally based cooperative research work by teams of philosophers and related scholars on the major issues of their various cultures. It is at work with Professors Charles Taylor and José Casanova also on a yet more extended project coordinating 10 teams on the evolution of the value horizons described in Taylor's *A Secular Age*.
- **Publications**: Seven new volumes expand the 300 volume series “**Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Change**” to share the results of the work of the research teams, seminars and conferences of the RVP network for mutual enrichment of all parts of the new global context. A new Series was created: Series VIII “**Christian Philosophical Studies**” to parallel Series IIA “**Islamic Philosophical Studies**” and other sub-sections of the RVP series.

Through all this the RVP pursues an essential effort, namely, to assist philosophers and related scholars to work together in local teams. These, in turn, constitute a global network whose goal is to help in the search to achieve an understanding of their cultures which responds creatively to the challenges of these global times.

Deepest gratitude is due to these many scholars across the world who together constitute this working network—to which you and your colleagues are invited.

Finally, the RVP wishes to thank those who help facilitate its various activities—seminars, publications, conferences, research projects, etc.—and especially Hu Yeping, its Executive Director, who composed this newsletter and coordinated most of the projects and publications it details.



George F. McLean, January 2013

## WORK ACHIEVED IN 2012: SEMINARS

### Spring Seminar 2012, Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C. March 26-April 6, 2012: "Role of Religions in Public Discourse: Recent Developments in the Thought of Jürgen Habermas". The seminar



was directed by *Plamen Makariev*, the Department of Philosophy, Sofia University, Sofia, Bulgaria, during his 5 month Fulbright program in Washington, D.C. There were about 10 participants from such countries as China (*Zhang Haojun* "Component or



Moment? A Critical Assessment of Habermas' Division of Life-World" and *Kuang Sanping* "Some Problems about Religion Entering the Public Sphere:

Chinese Cultural Perspective"); India (*Debika Saha* "Religion in the Public Sphere: Indian Perspective" and *Vensus A George*); Lithuania (*Dalia Marija Stansien* "Role of Religion in Public Discourse: Recent Development in the Thought of Jürgen Habermas"); Philippines (*Christian Bryan Bustamante* "Jürgen Habermas' Religion in Public Sphere in the Light of Foucault's Concept of Bio-power and Archaeology and Philippine Experience"); Turkey (*Ozlem Uluc* "Re-visiting Habermas on Religion in the Public: Does he Shed Light on Islam in Turkey?"); United Arab Emirates/USA (*Kevin W. Gray* "What is Living and What is Dead in Habermas' Secularization Hypothesis?"); and the United States (*John P. Hogan* and *John A. Kromkowski*).

Intensive reading was devoted to various writings by Habermas in terms of his recent developments on the theme of religion in public discourse. Related readings also included John Rawls, John Locke and a set of secondary references on Habermas. Discussions were on such issues as "What is the difference between collective decisions taken based on aggregation of preferences and ones taken by transformations of preferences?" "What is the relation between religion and myth and ritual?" "What is the relation between discourse ethics and real morality?" "What are the relations between the public sphere, civil society and communicative power in Habermas' model of deliberative politics?" "How can the idea of communicative action be justified?" "How can the relations between secular society and religious communities be interpreted in the light of the theory of communicative action?" "How can Habermas'



conception about the translation of culturally specific into universally accessible reasons be explicated in the frame of reference of the model of deliberative politics developed in *Between Facts and Norms*?" etc.

All the participants presented their research papers which will be published under the series: "Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Change" Series VII, Seminars: Culture and Values.

### Fall Seminar 2012, Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C. September 24-October 26, 2012: **“Building Community in a Mobile/Global Age”**. The seminar was directed by *John P. Hogan* along with *John A. Kromkowski*, both are members of RVP Executive

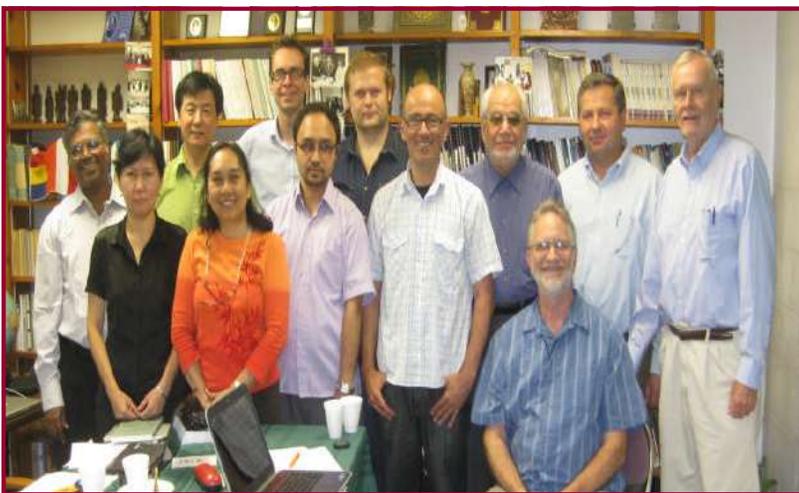


Committee in Washington, D.C. Participants were from Brazil (*Sérgio Ricardo Silva Gacki* “Ethical Approaches in Dialogue with Gadamer: A Hermeneutic Horizon for Educational Thinking in a Global Community”); China



(*Huang Qihong* “On the Four Basic Resources of Chinese Philosophical Modernity”; *Li Maosen* “On the Rule of Virtue in Contemporary China”; and *Luo Chunfeng*); India (*Vensus A. George* “Cosmopolitanism and Forgiveness: A Derridean Perspective” and “Immigration and Internal Migration: An Indian Perspective”); Iran (*Gholamreza A’avani* “Love/Agape: An Islamic Perspective”); Kyrgyzstan (*Alieva Choplpon Erikovna* “Kyrgyz Philosophy in a Global Context”); Philippines (*Corazon Toralba* “Migration and Development: Anthropological Dimension”); Poland (*Jacek Koltan* “Between Cooperation and Isolation: The Rise and Decline of the Ethics of Solidarity” and *Michal Reka* “Building Community: Polish Perspective: Can Love be Commanded?”); Russia (*Vladimir Ivanov* “Limitations of Diversity: Implications on Political Stability and Global Civil Society”); Taiwan (*Katia Lenehan* “The Human Being with Dignity in a Global Age: An Aesthetic Approach”) and Afghanistan /USA (*Sayyed Hassan Hussaini [Akhlaq]* “Identity and Immigration: A Quranic Perspective”). Invited speakers were *William A. Barbieri* from the School of Theology and Religious Studies of the Catholic University of America, who spoke on Michael Walzer’s *Spheres of Justice* and Charles Taylor’s “Politics of Recognition”; and *Aniedi P. Okure* from Africa’s Faith and Justice Network discussed African immigration in general and Nigerian immigrants in particular in the United States.

Reading materials included *Joseph H. Carens* *Culture, Citizenship and Community: A Contextual Exploration of Justice as Evenhandedness*; *Miriam Bankovsky* “Derrida Brings Levinas to Kant: The Welcome, Ethics, and Cosmopolitical Law”; *Jacques Derrida* *Of Hospitality*; *Daniel G. Groody* “Crossing the Divide: Foundations of a Theology of Migration and Refugees”; *John Kromkowski* “Immigration, Ethnicity and the Neighborhood Agenda: Urbanization in America” and “Introduction to Relations to Cultures”; *Mustafa Malik* “Islam’s Emerging ‘Third Space’ in the West”; *George F. McLean* “The Modern Construction of the Person” and “Human Subjectivity and the Unity and Plurality of Cultures”; *Thomas W. Ogletree* *Dimensions of Moral Understanding: Hospitality to the Strangers*; *Saskia Sassen* *Guests and Aliens*; *Vincent Shen* “Confucian Altruism, Generosity and Justice: A Response to Globalization,” and “The Concept of Centrality in Chinese Diaspora”; and *William Sweet* “Hospitality, Diversity and Unity.”



The seminar met on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9.00am till 12.00 noon. All the participants actively led the readings, took part in discussions, and presented their papers. The studies will be published in the RVP series "Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Change" Series VIII, Seminars: Culture and Values. The participants also visited the Woodrow Wilson Center and other related institutes to discuss the thematic with specialists in the United States.



### Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C., February 23-24, 2012: "**In Search of Culturally Based Civil Society**". A two-day conference was held with the participation of three political scientists from the Department of Comparative Politics, Russian People's Friendship University (RPFU), Moscow, Russia and from the Department of Politics, The Catholic University of America (CUA). It was chaired by George F. McLean, RVP President.



Yuriy Pochta ("Civilization and the Foundation of Civil Society in the Muslim World: the Russian Experience"), Chair of RPFU Department of Comparative Politics, led two colleagues: *Andrei Kinakin* ("Economic Implications of Civil Society Formation in Contemporary Russia") and *Vladimir Ivanov* ("The Natural Rate of Education" as the Predictor of Civil Activity and the Factor of Political Stability"). *David Walsh* ("Civil Society in Political Theory"), *Joan Urban* ("Experience of Civil Society in Russia"), *Stephen Schneck* ("Religion and Civil Society") and *John Kromkowski* ("American Experience of Civil Society") from the CUA Department of Politics spoke during the two day meeting along with *Vensus George* ("Civil Society in India") and *Valerie Frank* ("Notes for a Bibliography on Civil Society"), associates of the CUA Center for the Study of Culture and Values (CSCV) as well as *Zhang Haojun*, a Visiting Scholar from China. Intensive and in-depth discussions were on such issues as trends in the concept of civil society, the theory of civil society and its relevance to the acute and specific problems of modern society; philosophical and cultural foundations for civil society; formation of civil society in post communist and developing countries: achievements, peculiarities and contradictions; Russian civil society and the state: dialectics of interrelation or path to dependency.



RVP President.

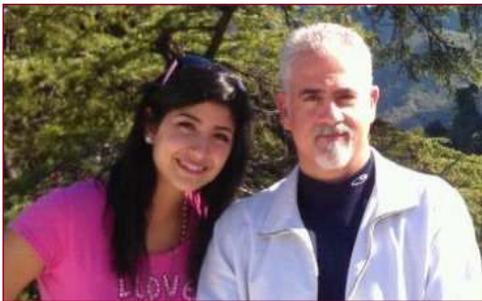
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## Beirut, Lebanon

Beirut, Lebanon, October 1-26, 2012: **"The Value of Compassion and Forgiveness in the World Philosophical Traditions"**. The seminar was conducted by *Edward J. Alam*, Director of the RVP Center located at the Notre Dame University (NDU), Louaizé, Lebanon, with the assistance of *Honorée Claris Eid*. The participants were from such countries as Ethiopia, India, Iran/U.S.A., Pakistan, Philippines, Romania, Thailand/Germany, Ukraine as well as scholars from Lebanon. The seminar was held both at the RVP seminar room at NDU and the Cedars Institute (CI) in Cedars, Lebanon.

Participants discussed such issues



as "Is Forgiveness Ethical When It Continues Oppression?: A Dalit Perspective on Reconciliation when Persistent Injustice is Systemic" (*Thummapudi Bharathi*);

"Compassion: Convergence of Christian and Buddhist Perspectives" (*George M. Kondothra*); "Political Compassion and Forgiveness: Dallmayrian Views" (*Edwin George*); "Towards Nirvana Through Compassion" (*Varghese Manimala*); "Shah Latif's Sufi-poetic Expressions of Compassion and Forgiveness as Universal Values" (*Amjad Ali*); "The Value of Forgiveness in Religious Philosophy and its Implementation in Present Scenario With Special Reference to Pakistan" (*Abdul Rashid*); "The Values of Compassion and Forgiveness: The African Experience" (*Workineh Kelbessa*); "Why Must We Forgive?" (*Rolando M. Gripaldo*); "Restoration of Man and World" (*Dan Chitoiu*); "Derrida, Reconciliation and Forgiveness" (*Mihail Evans*); "Compassion and Catharsis" (*Roman Meinhold*); "Ways of Being in the World in the Medieval Deccan" (*Firoozeh Papan-Matin*); "Overcoming Resentment and the Exposition of Philosophical Situation" (*Roman Wysochansky*).



The participants visited historical site in Cedars as well as Beirut, Baalbek, Anjar, Saidon, Byblos, Mount Lebanon, etc, in order to enrich both intellectually, historically and culturally during their stay in Lebanon. This seminar was supported by the Fetzer Institute, Al-Mashrek Insurance, the Cedars Institute and the Notre Dame University.

## WORK ACHIEVED IN 2012: CONFERENCES

### Moscow, Russia

Moscow, Russia, April 19-21, 2012: “**Philosophy and Spirituality across Cultures and Religious Traditions**”. The conference was opened by *Nur Kirabaev*, Vice Rector on Research, and *Vladimir Tsvyck*, Dean of Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, the People’s Friendship University of Russia (PFUR). This conference was initiated and coordinated by *Ruzana Pskhu*, professor of PFUR.

The conference was divided into three sessions: in Session I, “Contemporary Challenges to Traditional Values and



Virtues,” participants presented

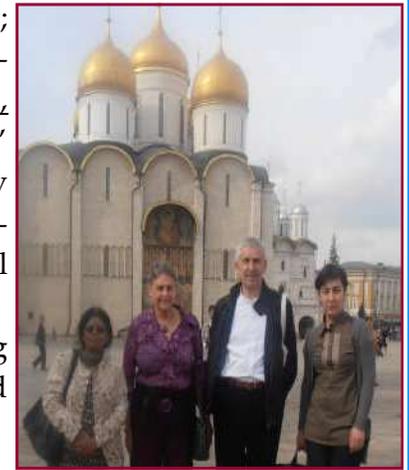
their papers on such issues as (“The Meaning of Love: Explorations of the Role of Philosophy in Spirituality” (*João J. Vila-Chã*—Gregorian University, Italy); “Postcontinental Philosophy and Contemporary Axiological Challenges” (*Madina Tlostanova*—PFUR); “Eurasianism as a Variant of Post-Revolutionary Russian Idea” (*Mikhail Maslin*—Lomonosov Moscow State University [LMSU]); “Person, Society and Community: Towards an Understanding of the Present Crisis and of the Liberal Project” (*Karlos Amaral*—University of the Azores, Portugal); “Islam and Contemporary Political Strategies” (*Marina Mchedlova*—PFUR); “The Natural Rate of Education” as the Factor of Political Stability and the Emerging Global Challenge” (*Vladimir Ivanov*—PFUR); in Session II, “Philosophical Foundations for Human Dignity and Meaning,” papers included “Relationship: An Essential Aspect of Human Nature in the Philosophy of Dietrich von Hildebrand” (*Jeanne Kamat*—Catholic University of America, U.S.A.); “On Human Dignity” (*Gong Qun*—People’s University of China, P.R. China); “On the Notion of Mutual Concealment of Wrong Doing among Family Members” (*Huang Chao*—Wuhan University, P.R. China); “The Ethical Responsibility according to Levinas and Jonas” (*Ozanan Vicente Carrara*—University of Federal Fluminense, Brazil); in Session III, “The Integration of Philosophy and Spirituality: East and West,”

speakers spoke on “Vladimir Solovyov: The Excuse for Philosophy” (*Viacheslav Serbinenko*—Russian State University for Humanities, Russia); “Synthesis of Theology and Science in the Philosophy of History by Lev Karsavin” (*Vasili Vanchugov*—LMSU);



"Unraveling the Spirit, Embracing the Serpent" (*Jack Harte*—Irish Writers' Center, Ireland); "Integration of Philosophy and Spirituality in the Middle Ages in India" (*Ruzana Pskhu*—PFUR); "Symbolism of Cultures and Spiritual Archetype of Humankind" (*Sergei Nizhnikov*—PFUR); in Session IV, "Role of Religion in the Secularized World," presented papers included "Happiness as Self-Realization: Suhrawardi and Ibn Arabi" (*Andrei Smirnov*—Institute of Philosophy, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia); "The Role of Man's Evolution and Sublimity in the Development of Social Rules" (*Mohammad Rezaei*—Islamic Research Institute for Culture and Thought [IRICT], Iran); "Rational Conduct and Intuition in Ibn Arabi's Mysticism School" "Rational Conduct and Intuition in Ibn Arabi's Mysticism School" (*Rodgar Kohpar*—IRICT); "Role of Religion in the Secularized World: Indian Context with Special Reference to the Religion of Saints" (*B.V.S. Bhanusree* —Andhra University, India); "Faith and Reason in the Philosophy of Antonio Rosmini" (*Wilhelm Dancă*—University of Bucharest, Romania); "Civil Society in Muslim World" (*Yuri Pochta* —PFUR); "Civil Society: Overcoming of Stereotypes" (*Nur Kirabaev*—PFUR); and during a round table, "Philosophy and Spirituality across Cultures and Religious Traditions," speakers spoke on "Human Dignity and Ethnic Identity: a Contemporary Opposition" (*Piotr Grechko*—PFUR); "The Basic Issues of Human Life in Pirogov's N.I. Philosophy" (*Elena Grevtsova* —PFUR). The proceedings will be published by the RVP in its Series IVA, Russian Philosophical Studies.

The participants also visited museums and Orthodox Churches during the conference in order to enrich the thematic experience on religious and spiritual lives in Russia.



## Wuhan, China

Wuhan, China, May 25-27, 2012: "**Transcendence and Immanence in Buddhism, Confucianism and Christianity**". The conference was taken place at a Buddhist hotel, next to the Guiyuan Buddhist Temple in Wuhan. It was coordinated by *Zhai Zhihong*, Chair, and *Huang Chao*, the Department of Religious Studies, School of Philosophy, Wuhan University. This conference was the second in the series of the theme of "Dialogue between Confucianism and Christianity," and



added Buddhism. The first conference in the series was held in June, 2011 at Wuhan University. Some 70 scholars and students attended the opening session; 40 participants presented their papers during this three day meeting.

The Conference was opened by *Wu Genyou*, *Gou Qiyong* and *Ma Tianxiang* on behalf of the Wuhan University, and *Vincent Shen*, RVP Vice President and *Hu Yeping*, RVP Executive Director, on behalf of the RVP and closed by *Zhai Zhihong* and *Huang Chao* on behalf of the Wuhan University and *João J. Vila-Chã*, RVP Vice President, on behalf of the RVP.

and Christianity," and



During the conference intensive and active discussions focused on such themes as Confucianism: “Chinese Beliefs and the role of Confucianism in China” (*Guo Qiyong*—Wuhan University [WU],



Wuhan); “Transcendence and Immanence: Chinese Neo-Scholasticism in Comparison with Modern New Confucianism” (*Vincent Shen*—University of Toronto, Canada); “The Review on the Comparison among Sheng and Xing and the Methodologies of the Study on Human Nature in Pre-Qin Period” (*Ding Sixin*—WU); “The Original Sin consciousness of the Pre-Qin Dynasty Confucian” (*Ouyang Zhenren*—WU); “Syun Zih: Another Road of Confucianism on Transcendence” (*Chu Shaohua*—WU); “Historical Evolution of Confucian Transcendental Vision” (*Hu Zhihong*—WU); “Tian in Gu Liang’s Biography on Chun Qiu” (*Qin Ping*—WU); “On the Theory of the Physical and the Mental of Augustine’s and Chu His’ View of Personality” (*Xu Tao* and *Li Sifan*—WU); Buddhism and Daoism: “On the Transcendence and Immanence of Tathagatarbha” (*Xie Jinsong*—Huazhong University

of Science and Technology, Wuhan); “From Alms Giving to Alms Giving Paramita” (*Sun Jinsong*—WU); “On the Immanence and Transcendence of Buddhism” (*Wang Meng*—Ethnic University of China, Beijing); “The Transcendence and Immanence in the Preparatory Practice of Ningmapa Mahasanti in Tibetan Buddhism” (*Zhang Peng*—Sianxi Academy of Social Science, Xian); “The Dao and the Sin: The Cultural Differences in the Ontology and Humanity of the Bible’s Translation” (*Ma Tianxiang*);

Christianity: “Understanding Love: Aspects of the Dialectic of Eros and Agape in the Western Tradition” (*João J. Vila-Chã*—Gregorian University, Italy); “Preliminary Research on the Thought of Saint Augustine’s Psychology” (*Zhang Zhanran*—WU); Values, Intersubjectivity and Responsibility in Slovak Lutheran Ethics” (*Vasil Gluchman*—University of Presov, Slovakia); “On the Immanence and Transcendence in the Conception of Being according to Thomas’ Metaphysics” (*Che Gui*—WU);

Comparison between Chinese traditions and Christianity: “Ancestor Worship and God Worship: The Comparison between Confucianism and Christian Faith” (*Wu Genyou*—WU); “Being Saint and Being Spirit: The Comparison between Neo-Confucianism of Cheng Hao, Cheng Yi and John Hick’s Transcendence of Personality” (*Zhai Zhihong*—WU); “God, Trinity, Confucianism: Christianity and the Source of Common Understanding” (*Jānis T. Ozolinš*—Australian Catholic University, Australia); “Trinitarian Dao and God: A Preliminary Idea of Systemic-Hermeneutical Intercultural Dialogue between Sino-Philosophy and Christian Theology” (*Lu Jingzhong*—Chungyuan Christian University, Taiwan);

“Dao and God” (*Gong Zhebing*—WU); “Immanence and Transcendence in the Philosophy of Human Nature of Wang Yangming and Max Scheler” (*Manuel B. Dy*—University of Ateneo de Manila, Philippines); “Golden Rules of Communication: Revealing Unity Manifested in Transcendence and



Immanence in Confucianism and Christianity" (*Umut Asanova*—Kyrgyzstan-Turkey Manas University, Kyrgyzstan); "Thomas Hora's Metaphysical Psychology: The Spiritual Therapy in the Interpretation of Christianity from the Perspectives of Buddhism, Daoism and Zen" (*Xie Tian*—WU); "The Mutual Link of Confucianism and Christianity: The Relationship of Transcendence and Immanence" (*Du Xiaolan*—WU); "Qi-Cultivation and Justification: A



Comparison of Core Concepts in Personality Accomplishment between Buddhism and Christianity" (*Zhou Xuanyi*—WU); "Research on the Similarity and Difference between Buddhism and Christianity in the Context of Buddhism" (*Yuan Jingwen*—Guanxi University, Nanning); "Love in Confucianism, Christianity and Buddhism" (*Sang Jingyu*—WU); "Christian Vocation and Confucian Tianming: Negotiating the Boundaries of Transcendence and Immanence in International Business Ethics" (*Dennis McCann*—Agnes Scott College, U.S.A.); "Ethics-Seeking Religion and Religion-Seeking Ethics: The Problems of Transcendence and Immanence in Christianity and Confucianism" (*Alois Agus Nugroho*—Atma Jaya Catholic University, Indonesia); "A Basic Problem for Confucianism and Christianity: How Human Transcendence is Possible in a Secular Thought-World" (*Patrick Giddy*—Kwazulu-Natal University, South Africa); "Transcendence and Immanence: The Dialogue between Mencius and Augustine" (*Wang Chengjun*—Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, Wuhan); and other related issues "Zhang Zai, Lv Daji, Kant and Their Metaphysics of Morals" (*Wen Bifang*—WU); "How Kant Solved the Contradiction of Categorical Imperative between Immanence and Transcendence" (*Fang Yong*—WU); "The Pragmatics of Religion: A Trans-transcendent Interpretation" (*Zhu Zhifang*—WU), etc.

One evening, the visiting scholars were invited to comment on thesis proposals of doctorate students at the Department of Religious Studies, Wuhan University, and also took part in a traditional tea ceremony. On May 28-29 visiting scholars joined by some Chinese professors and students visited both Fourth and Fifth Zen Buddhist Temples in Huang Mei city, some two hours from Wuhan city, where they stayed overnight and in the morning of May 29 they had a brief discussion with the Fourth Patriarchal regarding Zen Buddhism: its past, present and future.

## Wuhan, China

Wuhan, China, May 29-30, 2012: "**Dialogue and Cooperation among Cultures and Civilizations**". The conference was a follow-up to the visit by a RVP delegation in 2011. The conference was held at the Department of Philosophy, Huazhong



University of Science and Technology (HUST). It was opened by *Ouyang Kang* who introduced the importance of the conference thematic as well as the general history of the HUST. *Vincent Shen*, RVP Vice President, spoke on behalf



of the RVP in appreciation of the long history of cooperation between the HUST Philosophy Department and the RVP. *Chen Gang*, Professor of the HUST Department of Philosophy, and *João J. Vila-Chã*, RVP Vice President, on behalf of HUST and the RVP respectively, concluded the conference with a brief summary of the two day conference. *Zhang Tingguo*, Chair, and, *Lie Ruipeng*, Associate Chair of the HUST Department of Philosophy chaired and attended the two day meeting. For information in Chinese visit: <http://phil.hust.edu.cn/index.php/component/content/article/163.html>.



The conference presentations were on such issues as inter-cultural dialogue: “Intercultural Philosophy and Intercultural Dialogue” (*Vincent Shen*—Canada/Taiwan); “Multi-dimensional Conflict and International Dialogue in the Era of Globalization” (*Ouyang Kang*—HUST); “A Prolegomenon to Intercultural Philosophy of Systemic Hermeneutics” (*Lu Jingjong*—Taiwan); “Is Dialogue and Collaboration between Civilizations and Cultures Possible? Reflections on Ecumenical Wisdom and World Cultural Consciousness” (*Gerard Walmsley* — South Africa); “Love as the Philosophical Base for Dialogue and Cooperation between Cultures” (*Umut Asanova*—Kyrgyzstan); “Culture and Civilization-Thinking in Differences” (*Chen Chunwen*—Lanzhou University); “Ideas at Odds: Cultural Pluralism vs Cultural Assimilation” (*Rajesh Shukla*—Canada/India); “Collision and Fusion: On Cultural Exchange and Dialogue between Eastern and Western Tradition” (*Xu Tao*—HUST); “Communication among Civilizations” (*Patrick Giddy*—South Africa); Chinese culture: “Contemporary Values and World Influence of Traditional Chinese Culture” (*Han Dongping*—HUST); “Ethical Dimension of Bioethics in China” (*Lei Ruipeng*—HUST); “Taoism and Modern Managerial Leadership” (*Cheng Xinyu* and *Jose M. Prieto*—HUST); “Individuals are Inadequate: Recognizing the Family-Centeredness of Chinese Bioethics and Chinese Health System” (*Wang Jue*—HUST); “On the Four Basic Resources of Chinese Philosophical Modernity” (*Huang Qihong*—HUST); “Three Issues Concerning the Construction of Chinese Mainstream Culture” (*Jiang Chang*—Wuhan City University); comparative studies: “Comparison between the Hegelian and the Confucian Views on Family” (*Deng Xiaomang*—HUST); “Cross-Paradigm Understanding: Su Shi vs Thomas Kuhn” (*Chen Gang*—HUST); education: “Wisdom as Aim of Education East and West” (*Jānis (John) T. Ozoliņš*—Australia); “Foreign Language Education and Cooperation for Human Development” (*Marta Gluchmanova*—Slovakia); “Defragmenting Education: Life as an Organizing Idea” (*Richard Feist*—Canada); and other related issues: “Kabbalah and the Meaning of Tradition: Leone Ebreo and the Jewish Contribution for the Dialogue of Cultures and Civilizations” (*João J. Vila-Chã*—Portugal/Italy); “A Filipino Perspective of Imamichi’s Eco-Ethics” (*Manuel B Dy*—Philippines); “Clash of Civilizations: Indonesia, A Nation-State at the Crossroad” (*Alois Agus Nugroho*—Indonesia); “Heidegger on Meaning and Conscience” (*Li Jun*—HUST); “Humanity and the Future of Humankind in Cultural Tradition of Central Europe” (*Vasil Gluchman*—Slovakia); etc.



## Beijing, China

*Beijing, China, June 2-3, 2012: “Traditional Values and Virtues and Contemporary Society in a Global Age”*. This conference was held and hosted by the Center for Ethical Study, School of Philosophy, Renmin (People’s) University of China (RUC), Beijing. It was opened by *Yang Huilin*, RUC Vice President, *Ge Chenhong*, Director of the RUC Center for Ethical Study, *Hu Yeping*, RVP Executive Director and *Liao Shenbai*, Associate Editor of *Frontiers of Philosophy*. *Gong Qun*, Executive Director of the Center for Ethics Study, coordinated the entire conference. The conference was concluded by *Ge Chenhong* and *Vincent Shen* on behalf of the RUC Center for Ethics Study and the RVP, who pointed out issues in need of further discussions between the two institutions. Translation services were provided by *Wen Haiming*, *Liu Wei*, *Wang Le* and *Li Ran*, younger professors and students of the RUC School of Philosophy. For Chinese information visit <http://www.ethics.com.cn/rucethics/60/n-260.html>.

The conference discussed such issues as Chinese ethical theory: “The Virtue Theory of Mencius” (*Cheng Lai*—Tsinghua University, Beijing); “Intercultural Philosophy, Mutual Waitui and Chinese Philosophy in the World of Globalization” (*Vincent Shen*—Toronto); “The Chinese Problem and Chinese Theory of Moral Development” (*Fan Hao*—Southeast China University, Nanjing); “The Difference and Integration between the tradition of the Confucian School’s Ethics and the Modern Public Ethics” (*Xiao Qunzhong*—RUC); “Tao of Zhuangzi and the Modern Ecological Reflection” (*Li Zhengang*—He Bei University, Shi Jiaozhuang); “The Historical Origin of Chinese Confucian Moral Culture” (*Ge Chenhong*—RUC); “The Historical Generation and Significance of Integrity and Fidelity” (*Luo Anxian*—RUC); “The Rule of Virtue in Contemporary China” (*Li Maoseng*—RUC); “Confucian Ethics and Gender in Today’s World” (*Pamela G. Herron*—University of Texas at El Paso); “Human Rights Ideology as Endemic in Chinese Philosophy: Classical Confucian and Mohist Perspective” (*Wen Henming*—RUC); “Confucianism and Development of Contemporary China” (*Chen Ming*—Capital Normal University, Beijing); “The Contemporary Significance of Confucian Values” (*Gong Qun*—RUC); general studies: “Is There a Place for Traditional Values and Virtues in Social Life Today?” (*Gerard Walmsley*—St. Augustine College of South Africa, Johannesburg); “Values and Virtues in



a Global Age" (*Jānis (John) T. Ozoliņš*—Victoria); "On Universal Value and Cultural Values' Structure" (*Li Chenyang*—Nanyang Technological University, Singapore); "Do We Need E-Values and E-



Virtues? Confucianism, Buddhism and Socratism in the Age of Social Media" (*Richard Feist*—Ottawa); "On Moral Particularity and Universality: A Comparison between Confucianism and Aristotle's Virtue Ethics" (*Yang Bao*—Wuhan Textile University, Wuhan); "Rebuilding Belief and Returning Virtue Marginalized to the Heart" (*Liu Lihua*—RUC); "The Immoral Virtuous Community" (*Fan Zhijun*—Southeast University, Nanjing); "Virtue, Norm and Moral Practice: From a Comparative Perspective" (*Yang Guorong*—East China Normal University, Shanghai); "Values and Virtues of Three Life Forms Today" (*Maija Kule*—University of Latvia, Riga); "Values and Virtues in a Non-tradition-based Culture" (*Patrick Giddy*—Durban); "Ethical Pluralism and Sensus Communis in the Search for Unity" (*Maris Kulis*—University of Latvia, Riga), "Concealed by Relatives and Responsibility for the Older Generation upon the Young" (*Liang Tao*—RUC); etc.; and themes related specific regions and topics: "The World as Metaphor: The Dialectic of Microcosm and Macrocosm in the European Tradition" (*João J. Vila-Chã*—Rome); "Tradition, Values and Techno-Science in the World of Today: The East-European Scenario" (*Dan Chitoiu*—AIC University of Lasi, Lasi); "Freedom and Responsibility Integrity in Kyrgyz Traditional Culture" (*Umut Asanova*—Bishkek); "Aristotle's Nous as Telos-related Reasoning: Two Main Contrasts with the Enlightenment Notion of Mind" (*Liao Shenbai*—Beijing Normal University, Beijing); "Virtue Ethics in Islamic Context with Special Reference to Justice" (*Yasien Mohamed*—University of the Western Cape, Cape Town); "Creating Character: Aristotle on Habituation, Cognitive Power of Emotion and the Role of Prudence" (*Liu Wei*—RUC); "Justice and Civic Friendship: An Aristotelian Critique of Modern Citizenry" (*Rajesh C. Shukla*—Ottawa); "On Nationalism and Modernity" (*Bai Tongdong*—Fudan University, Shanghai); etc.

On June 4th some visiting scholars accompanied by some young professors and students visited the Forbidden City and the Summer Palace in order to explore the ancient and modern Chinese capital city.



## Ulan-Ude, Russia

*Ulan-Ude, Russia, June 6-8, 2012: "Interrelation of Eurasian Cultures in a Global Age".* This confer-



ence was held at the Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Philosophy, Buryat State University (BSU) and East Siberian State University and the UNESCO Chair, Ulan-Ude, Russia. The conference was coordinated by Iran Boldonova, Professor of the BSU Department of Philosophy. The conference was opened by V.V. Bashkeeva, Dean of the BSU Philosophy Faculty; A.S. Buldaev, Rector of Belarussian State University of Science, S.I. Garmaeva, Professor of Philosophy of the BSU Department of Foreign Liter-



ature, and T. Menampampi from India. More than one hundred participants came from such countries as China, India, Russia, Switzerland, etc., took part and presented their papers.

The conference was divided into four round tables: in round table I, "philosophical problems and interculturality," participants spoke on such issues as "Dialogue between Cultures and Civilizations as a Semantic Field of Global Sustainable Development Policy" (V.V. Mantatov); "Encounter of Civilizations" (T. Menampampil); "Actual Problems of Security of the Baikal Region in Modern Conditions" (L.G. Sandakova); "The Basis of the Teachings of Spiritual Traditions" (N.A. Usov); "Religious and Confessional Identity and Ethnodifferential Factors in the Traditional Culture of the Peoples of Eastern Siberia as Result of their Historical Relationship" (L.L. Abaeva); in round table II, "intercultural aspects of interaction," papers included "Intercultural Dialogue in a Multicultural Society" (L.V. Mantatova); "Values of Mongolian Ethnic Groups: Tradition and Modernity" (L.V. Badmaeva); "Multicultural Communicative Personality: Hermeneutics of Social Existence" (I.S. Boldonova); "Buddhism in Buryatiya and Environmental Ethics" (J.B. Ayakova); "The Image of the Other in Intercultural Dialogue" (L.I. Ivankina); "The Idea of Convergence in the Philosophy of Eurasianism" (Sergei Sokolov); "Buddhism and Traditional Chinese Exercises in the Management of the Company" (Sh. Tsyban); "Noosphere Worldview and Cultural Interaction" (A.A. Burzalova); "The Problem of Identity in a Multicultural Society" (A.A. Angarhaev); "National Specific Semantics of the Words Hynehen-Soul, Sedhel-Soul and Huulde-Spirit" (V.M. Egodurova); "Cultural Encounters: The Problem of Understanding" (L.TS. Tarchimaeva); in round table III, "literature and its role in the Eurasian model": issues discussed were "Language Building of Mongolian Peoples in XXth Century Russia" (V.D. Dugarov); "Ethnocultural Characteristics of the Concept of Beauty in the Russian and Chinese Language Consciousness" (M.B. Matantseva); "Christian Pagan Elements in the Structure of the Text" (T.V. Hantashkeeva); "Cross-border Sociocultral Space: Russian and Chinese Boarder Regions Experience of Co-development" (T.N. Kuchinsky); "Buryat Literature in the Context of the Traditions of the East and the West" (E.E. Baldanmaksarova); "Literature and Spirituality in the Information Society" (I.V. Bulgutova); "The Relationship of the Epic and Drama in the Works of G. Bashkueva" (S.S. Imihelova); "Russian Education as a Result of the Interaction of Cultures" (D.S. Tsyrendorzhieva); "Factors Formation of Ethnic Linguistic Identity" (T.F. Dolbeeva); "Literary Education in the University and School"; and in round table IV, "explored educational



aspects," such papers presented as "Journalism Education and Professional Culture of Journalists: The Dominant Paradigm" (N.I. Badmaeva); "Synergetics and the Concept of Time in the Myth-Ritual Complex in Ethnic Buryat Culture" (N.G. Sahiltarova); "Ethnic Interaction of the Population in Ulan-Ude" (I.Z. Chimitova); "Prospects for University Education in the Post-Industrial Society" (L.N. Ruliene); "National Concepts in the Lyrics of A. Badaeva" (V.V. Bashkeeva); "Globalization and the Problem of Tolerance" (S.I. Garmaeva); "Ethics in the Information Society" (O. Manzhueva); "The Modern Process of Acculturation of the Traditional Culture of the Buryats" (Z.A. Batorova); "Spiritual and Moral Values in Social Relations" (D.S. Tsyrendorzhieva); etc. The proceedings will be published both in Russian in Ulan-Ude and in English by the RVP in its book series "Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Change" Series IVA.



### Poznan, Poland

**Poznan, Poland, September 13-15, 2012: "Identity and Modernization"**. This conference was the first of a biannual conference of Eastern and Central European countries. It was sponsored and held by the In-



stitute of Philosophy, Adam Michiewicz University (UAM), Poznan, Poland. *Tadeusz Buksinski*, Director of the UAM Institute of Philosophy, coordinated the entire conference. *Bronislaw Marciniak*, the UAM Rector inaugurated the conference. A delegation of 8 Chinese professors from Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou and Fudan University in Shanghai, China, led by *Liu Senlin*, took part in the conference.



Issues discussed during the conference included identity "Free Normative Domain between European Law and a Member State Law as a Source of the Constitutional Identity" (*Marek Zirk-Sadowski*—University of Lodz, Poland); "Universal Human Rights and Particular Cultural Identities" (*George Lohmann*—University of Magdeburg, Germany); "Difference and Identity: The Modernity and the Aesthetic" (*Tian Ming*—Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China); "Transformation of the Chinese Peasants' Identity since 1949" (*Zhao Sikong*—The Institute of Philosophy, Shanghai Academy of Social Science, Shanghai, China); "Processes of Identity Rationalization" (*Karolina M. Cern*—Adam Michiewicz University, Poznan, Poland); "Nihilism and the Cultural Identity of Modern Chinese Intellectuals: An Essay Concerning Zhu Qianzhi" (*Liu Senlin*—Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China); "Identification as Abstract Technique in Modernization" (*Ma Tianjun*—Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China); "The National Identity and the Ethnic Consciousness of Modern China" (*Zou Shipeng*—Fudan University, Shanghai, China); "Complicated Modernity and the Construction of National Identity: the Case of China" (*Wang Xingfu*—Fudan University, Shanghai, China); "Identity as the Necessary Element of the European Equality Law" (*Bartosz Wojciechowski*—University of Lodz, Poland); "The Communist Party of China and the Identity of Modernization" (*Tan Qunyu*—Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China); "Individualism and Modern Collection Identity" (*Dariusz Dobrzanski*—Adam Michiewicz

University, Poznan, Poland); “Should We Make Use of or Remove the Veil of Ignorance? Contemporary Political Theory on the Question of Identity: Prospects for Postcommunist Societies” (*Iwona Romana Barwicka-Tylek*—Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland);



“Identity, Integration and Kosovo Transition in Process of Globalization” (*Fadil Maloku*—University of Pristine, Kosovo); modernization: “Territorial Identities in Conditions of Global Modernization: From Local to Global” (*Gennadii Korzhov*—Makiyivka Institute of Economics and Humanities, Donetsk, Ukraine); “Modernization and Institutional Change: The Case of Public Hearing in Poland” (*Piotr Juchacz*—Adam Michiewicz University, Poznan, Poland); “Weak and Strong Sources of Identity in the Late Modernization: Pluralism, Ethnicity and Citizenship, with Particular Reference to Postcommunist Societies” (*Dorota Pietrzyk-Reeves*—Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland); “Discourse of Modernization Towards Young Generations after 1989. Assumption and Implications for the Construction of Identity” (*Karolin Messayasz*—University of Lodz, Poland); “Individualism in the European History of Economic Thought and the Process of Modernization” (*Hanna Trojanska*—Kardinal Wyszynski University, Warsaw, Poland); “Avoiding Negativity of Modernization with Blend of Values and Tradition” (*Dinesh Chahal*—C.R. College of Education, Hisar, India); culture: “Confucianism and the Localization of Chinese Political Democracy” (*Lin Yuchuan*—Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China); “The Revenge of Culture” (*Tadeusz Buksinski*—Adam Michiewicz University, Poznan, Poland); “Problems Concerning Religion Entering the Public Sphere from a Chinese Cultural Perspectives” (*Kuang Sanping/Li Xiaomei*—Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China); “Civilizational Area of Eastern Europe and its Determinants in 19th and 20th centuries” (*Piotr Koprowski*—Gdansk University, Gdansk, Poland); “Post Soviet Intellectuals in the Context of Values Contradiction: New Class or Clients of Power?” (*Yaroslav Pasko*—State

University of Donetsk, Donetsk, Ukraine); “Ethnocentrism: Uses and Usability” (*Ivan Šimko*—University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria); “Modernization and Culture” (*Hu Yeping*—RVP Executive Director, who presented a book entitled “The Idea of Solidarity: Philosophical and Social Contexts: Polish Philosophical Studies X” of the RVP publication series.



## Johannesburg, South Africa

Johannesburg, South Africa, November 1-3, 2012: “Humanities and the Social Sciences in an African Context: Education for Life” and “Thomisms in the 21st Century.” Two conferences were conducted at St. Augustine College of South Africa (ACSA). They were initiated by Gerard Walmsley, ACSA Vice President and Dean of School of



Philosophy and Theology, and coordinated by Petru Harrison and Jakub Urbaniak, professors at ACSA. It was opened by Michael van Heerden, President of St. Augustine College. The keynote speakers were John Haldane from University of St. Andrews, Scotland, who



spoke on “Understanding the Human: The Necessity of Philosophy for Education and Research” and introduction to Thomism today, and John Higgins from the University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa, who spoke on “Round Pegs in Square Holes: The Dilemma of the Humanities in Reformation Research Policy.” The conferences were co-partnered with the University of Johannesburg.

Participants in the conference on “Humanities and Social Sciences” spoke on such related issues as education: “Wisdom as the Primary End of Higher Education: Why Citizenship is Not Enough” (Thaddeus Metz—U.S.A./S.A.); “Towards an Educational Philosophy for the Human Sciences in Africa” (Lawrence Ogbo Ugwuanyi—Nigeria); “The Call of Vatican II for the Renewal of Catholic Education: Gravissimum educationis’ and the Idea of a Catholic University” (João J. Vila-Chã—Portugal/Italy); “Education for Wisdom: Yesterday and Today” (Gerard Walmsley—S.A.); “Useful Education in Practice” (Christopher Allsobrook—S.A.); values and ethics: “Useful Education in Practice” (Christopher Allsobrook—S.A.); “Useful Education in Practice” (Christopher Allsobrook—S.A.); human sciences:

“Establishing a Multilingual Philosophy: The Language Politics of the Humanities in South Africa” (Oisín Keohane—Ireland/S.A.); “The Decline of the Humanities and the Health of Society” (Ibanga Ikpe—Botswana); “The Human Sciences and the Crystals of Time” (Bert Olivier—S.A.)



“Interruptions at the Margins of Complacency: Mutual Critique between Theology and the Humanities” (Terence Bateman—S.A.); “Is the Perception of Dying the Cause of Death Itself? A Critical Examination of the Reasons Why Humanities and Social Sciences Degrees in South Africa are Dying” (Claudia Da Rocha Kustner—S.A. and Nikolai Viedge—S.A.); and other related issues



“All History is Local: Teaching World History in a Postcolonial Context” (Nicolas Rowe—U.S.A./S.A.); “The Economistic University” (Michael Heyns—S.A.); “Whose Voice Is Talking? Literary Narratives as a Tool for Critical Thinking and Social Transformation around HIV/AIDS and Gender Perceptions” (Jennifer M. Schmidt—U.S.A./S.A. and Claudia Da Rocha Kustner—S.A.); “Revisiting the Two Cultures of Psychology: Is Psychology Moving toward an Integral Psychology?” (Rex van Vuuren—S.A.); “The Cold War: The End of History and the New Agendas in Political Science” (Raphael De Kadt—S.A.); “Towards a Philosophy of Mathematical Literacy” (Michael Glencross—S.A.), etc.



The second conference on Thomisms in the 21st century covered such issues as “Facing Being: Thomism, Truth and Its Relevance to Contemporary Philosophy” (Callum Scott—U.S./S.A.); “A Contemporary Cosmology in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition” (Neil McGurk—S.A.); “Recapturing the Unlimited Term of Human Willing” (Patrick Giddy—S.A.); “God is not a Hypothesis” (Francis Williamson—S.A.); “Promotion of Intellectual Conversion: The Basic Project in Tertiary Education” (Maurice Schepers—U.S.A./Kenya); “Whose Thomism? Which Aquinas?” (Gerard Walmsley—S.A.), etc.

## Durban, South Africa

Durban, South Africa, November 6, 2012: “**Religious Development in Africa**”. This academic seminar



was on various religious developments in Africa. John Patrick Giddy, Professor of School of Religion, Philosophy and Classics, University of Kwazulu-Natal (UKN), Durban, coordinated this meeting with R. Simangaliso Kumalo, Dean of UKN School of Religion and Theology, Pietermaritzburg, who hosted this seminar. Sareh Amiryazdani from Tehran, Iran, talked about her research in religious development

in Africa and received various critiques, comments and suggestions from professors and students. Hu Yeping introduced RVP activities and publications. Kumalo indicated the interest of his colleagues in the publication project on religious studies and African theology and planned further cooperation with the RVP.



## Cape Town, South Africa

Cape Town, South Africa, November 8-9, 2012: **"Philosophy and Religion in Africa"**. This conference was hosted by the Department of Foreign Languages, Faculty of Arts, University of the Western Cape (UWC), and held at the UWC Center for Humanities, Faculty of Arts. It was funded by Flemish Interuniversity Council (VLIR) and the UWC Center for Humanities Research. *Yasien Mohamed*, Professor of the UWC Department of Foreign Languages, coordinated the conference. He had participated in the Washington, D.C., 2008 Spring seminar on "Faith and Reason in Islam," and his book *Path to Virtue* received the President's Award from Iran in 2009.

The conference was opened by the Dean of the UWC Center for Humanities Research and *Hu Yeping* on behalf of the RVP. The keynote speaker was Augustine Shutte, Professor Emeritus of Department of Philosophy, University of Cape Town, who spoke on "Conflict and Religion: Secularity as a Standard for Authentic Religion." Other issues included "Philosophy in Africa" (*Olusegun Morakinyo*, UWC Department of History); "Black Theology as Unfinished Business" (*Demaine Solomons*, UWC Department of Religion and Theology); "An Examination of African Philosophy through the Concept of Ubuntu" (*Msekeli Ngquba*, University of South Africa, Durban); "Development in Post-Apartheid South Africa" (*Mahmood Patel*, UWC Department of English); "Discerning the Parameters of the World of Worldviews" (*Ernst Conradi*, UWC Department of Religion and Theology); "Boundaries of Magic, Witchcraft, Religion and Science in Africa: An Essay on Comte's Law of Three Stages" (*Leila Hooshangi* and *Hamideh Amiryazdani*, Alzahra University, Tehran); "Timbuktu: An African Contribution to the Dialogue of Civilizations" (*Shahid Mathee*, Department of Religious Studies, University of Johannesburg); "Reconciliation between Philosophy and Religion: A Critical Analysis of Ibn Rushd's *Fasl Al-Maqqal* (The Decisive Treatise)" (*Mustapha Saidi*, UWC Department of Foreign Language); "The Ethical Thought of Ahmad Amin" (*Yasien Mohamed*, UWC Department of Foreign Languages); etc.

*Hu Yeping*, RVP Executive Director presented 5 books in the RVP book series on African philosophical studies to the University library.



## Harare, Zimbabwe

Harare, Zimbabwe, November 12-13, 2012: **“Philosophy, Tradition and Progress in Africa”**. This conference was hosted by the



Department of Religious Studies, Classics and Philosophy, University of Zimbabwe (UZ) in cooperation with the Philosophical Society of Zimbabwe at the Humanities Lecture Theater. *Francis Mabiri*,



Professor of the UZ Department of Philosophy, coordinated the conference. *N.T. Taringa*, Chair of the UZ Department of Philosophy welcomed the delegates; *P. Mashiri*, Dean of UZ Faculty of Arts officially opened the conference; and *Hu Yeping* spoke on behalf of the RVP and presented some of the RVP publications to the UZ library including one from UZ philosophers. Students of the UZ Department of Philosophy performed a play, “The Death of Socrates,” which received a warm welcome of professors and students. It was also supported by the Culture Center of the Embassy of Iran.

The conference was divided into four sessions: I. “From Eurocentric Development to the Ethics of Language and Development in Africa”: issues were discussed including “A Linguistic and Normative Analysis of Africa’s Right to Development” (*I. Munyiswa* and *F. Mabiri*—UZ); “Ethics, Development and Displacement in Africa: Macdom-ARDA Chisumbanje Ethanol Project in Chipinge, South Eastern Zimbabwe” (*E. Konyana*—Great Zimbabwe University [GZU]); “Rethinking Development in Africa: A Critique of the Eurocentric Development Paradigm” (*E. Gwaravanda*—GZU); II. “From the War of Liberation, the Moralization of Heroism to Notions of National Healing and Reconciliation in Zimbabwe”: presented papers were on “Moral Anchors of National Healing, Reconciliation and Integration in Post-Conflict Zimbabwe” (*F. Mangena*-GZU); “Distortions of the War of Liberation: A Post-colonial Challenge for Zimbabwe” (*J. Mukusha*—UZ); III. “Witching and Gendering the War of Liberation and Moralizing the Land Reform and Ecological Systems in Zimbabwe”: speakers spoke on “Witches, Sellouts and Zimbabwe’s War of Liberation” (*T.A. Chimuka*—UZ); “Towards an African Traditional Religio-Cultural Ecological Ethics for Sustainable Green Land Reform Programs in Zimbabwe: (*N.T. Taringa*—UZ); “Women in Zimbabwe’s War of Liberation: A Critique of the Sexual Conduct of the Male Guerrillas” (*M. Man-*

*Yonganise*—Zimbabwe Open University [ZOP]); and IV. “From the Literary Sense of Development, Discussions on Femininity, Empowerment and Homosexuality to the Idea of Hunhu/Ubuntu and Animal rights”: presentations discussed such issues as “The Ethics Crisis in Africa: A Critique of the Rights Based approach to Homosexuality in Zimbabwe”



(C. Makamure and V. Chiminige—ZOP); “Africa and the Right to Development: An Analysis of Selected Literary Texts” (J. Muganiwa—UZ); “Christianity vs Tradition: An Ethical Evaluation on Discourses on Femininity and Empowerment in the Zaoga Church” (K. Biri—UZ); “Are Hunhu/Ubuntu Ethics Compatible with the Animal Rights?” (J. Gwara and C.T. Zimunya—UZ); etc. The proceedings will be published by the RVP in its publication series “Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Change” Series II, Africa.



Following the conference, The Philosophical Society of Zimbabwe held its annual general meeting to discuss many issues, one of which was about continued cooperation with the RVP.

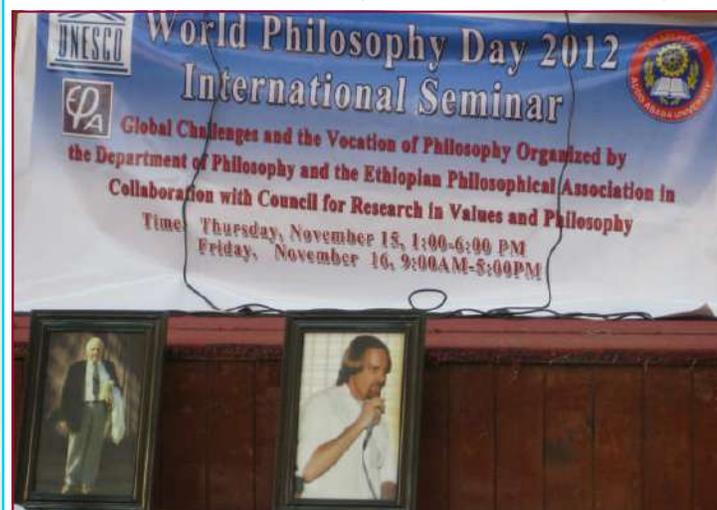
### Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, November 15-16, 2012: “Global Challenges and the Vocation of Philosophy”.**

This conference was organized by the Department of Philosophy, Addis Ababa University (AAU) in conjunction with World Philosophy Day. It was coordinated by *Tenna Dewo*, Chair, *Workineh Kelbessa* and *Bekele Gutema*, professors of the AAU Department of Philosophy, with *Edward Alam* for the RVP. It was opened by *Jeilu Oumer*, AAU Academic Vice President, who gave



the keynote speech. A special tribute was dedicated to the late *Claude Sumner* (1919-2012), a prolific author and scholar of Ethiopian philosophy, folk-tales, proverbs and songs, who taught at Addis Ababa University for almost 50 years and to *Daniel Smith* (1957-2012) who had taught in many countries around the world and very concerned with many social issues, especially justice.



The conference proceeded inductively through four sessions: session I focused on African Philosophy and Global Challenges: presented papers included “The Role of African Philosophy in Understanding Globalization” (*Bekele Gutema*—AAU); “Zara Yacob on Truth and Tolerance” (*Ato Abel Cherinet*—Haramaya University, Ethiopia); “Deliberating Philosophy: Affirming Freedom” (*Mogobe B. Ramose*—University of South Africa, South Africa); “Lesson from Modernity: Africa’s Return to the World” (*Guyo Doyo*—University of Bule Hora, Ethiopia); Sessions II was on

Global Challenges and Ethics: presented papers were “Three Approaches to Environmental Philosophy and Ethics: Can They really Help us to Address the Environmental Challenges of Africa?” (*Johan Hattingh*—Stellenbosch University, South Africa); “Global Challenges and the Need for Dialogue among Civilization” (*Workineh Kelbessa*—AAU); “Freedom and Ethics” (*Edward Alam*—Notre Dame University, Lebanon); Session III discussed Philosophy and Global Challenges: papers were on “Democratizing Philosophy: School for Life and Life for School” (*Charles Verharen*—Howard University, the United States) and “Modernization and Culture” (*Hu Yeping*—RVP); and Session IV was on Globalization and Global Challenges: papers included “Habermas’ Colonization of the Life World: Situational Analysis and Globalization, the African Situation and the Ethiopian Educational System” (*Ato Teshome Abera*—Addis Ababa Science and Technology University, Ethiopia); “Globalization and Moral Paradoxes of the Human World: Critical Reflection” (*Tenna Dewo*—AAU); “Discourse Ethics, Globalization and the Problem of Fundamentalism” (*Ato Biniyam Mekonnen*—Mekele University, Ethiopia); “Religion, Universality and Critical Theory” (*Ato Fasil Merawi*—Wollega University, Ethiopia), etc. The proceedings will be published in the RVP publication series “Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Change” Series II Africa.

On behalf of the RVP, *Hu Yeping* presented 5 recently published RVP volumes in African series, two of which were by Ethiopian philosophers, to the University library.



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## Kampala, Uganda

Kampala, Uganda, November 19-20, 2012: “Africa in the Emerging New World Order: Development,



**Culture and the State**”. The conference was organized by the Department of Philosophy, Makerere University (MU). Its faculty members *Ferdinand Mutaawe Kasozi* coordinated the conference; *Wilfred Lajul* chaired the many sessions and *Edward Wamala*, the department chair,



opened the conference. *Hu Yeping* spoke on behalf of the RVP and presented 5 recently published RVP volumes in African series, to the University library. Participants came from Nigeria, Italy, Holland, China, Great Britain, etc.

Issues discussed during the conference included “Towards an Authentic Development for African Society” (*Olatunji Felix*—Nigeria); “Ethics and the Future: A Religious Perspective” (*Therese Tinkasimiire*—MU); “Engendering the New Aid Modalities in Uganda” (*Tabitha Mulyampiti*—MU); “African Cultural Beingness in the New World Order” (*Ferdinand Mutaawe Kasozi*—MU); “African Culture and the Future” (*Hawa Kasule*—MU); “Strategic Respositioning in a Hypercompetitive World” (*Sebastiano Rwengabo*—Singapore); “Africa in the Lens of the New World Order” (*Kizito Michael George*—MU); “The Way forward for Africa in the Emerging World Order” (*Edward Wamala*—MU); “African Ethics in the Emerging World Order” (*Wilfred Lajul*—MU); etc. The proceedings will be published by the RVP in its publication series “Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Change” Series II, Africa.

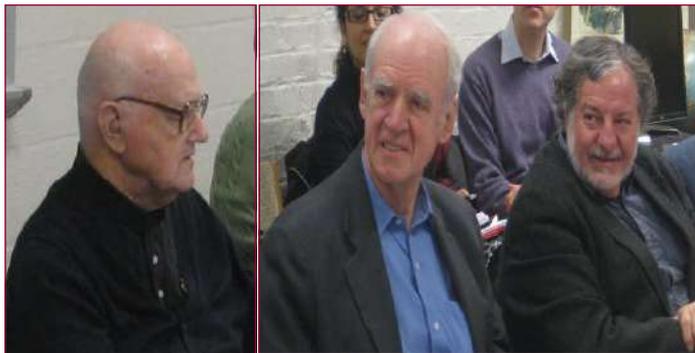
A very special interest: a large group of students, who have careers as public servants and private citizens who study ethics and human rights in a special course taught at the MU Department of Philosophy, took part in the conference and also actively joined the discussions.



## WORK ACHIEVED IN 2012: PROJECT ON SECULAR AGE

### Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C. December 1-2, 2012: **“Faith in a Secular Age: Disjunctions between Religion and**



**People”** continued the project designed by *Charles Taylor*, *José Casanova* and *George F. McLean* to explore challenges of religion in a secular age, the proceedings of which were published by the RVP in its series “Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Change” Series VIII under the title *Church and People: Disjunctions in a Secular Age* (see full text on the web at [www.crvp.org](http://www.crvp.org) under “Publications”).

This two day meeting focused on coordinating the teams on the four disjunctions proposed by *Charles Taylor*. The research proposals of seven teams were presented on: disjunction I (*Philip Rossi* and *James South*, Marquette University, Milwaukee and *Tomáš Halík*, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic) on seekers and dwellers, discussed issues of grace, secularity, plurality and the historical environment; disjunction II (*Anthony Carroll* and *James Sweeney* from Heythrop College, University of London, England) on religious teaching, suggested exploring new models of social and communal reality which focus on difference, kenotic powerlessness, sacramentality of life, and multiple competencies, etc.; disjunction III (*José Casanova*, *Drew Christiansen*, *Julie Clague* and *John Langan* from Georgetown University, *William Barbieri* from the Catholic University of America) on morality and historicity, concerning such issues as signs of the times, historical experiences, dynamics and historicity, responsibility, etc.; disjunction IV (*Vincent Shen*, University of Toronto, Toronto and *Robert Schreiter*, Catholic Theological Union, Chicago) on plural spiritualities, provided Asian kenotic sources with Daoism, Buddhism and Confucianism; the relationship between adaptation of theory with praxis; understanding multiple spiritualities; hospitality; reconciliation; rituals, secular spiritualities, etc. More task forces on this project are under development, especially in Europe and further interacting conference was projected for early summer 2013 in Vienna.



Other participants were *Jeffrey Bloechl*, *Dominic Doyle* and *Jonathan Trejo-Mathys* from Boston College, Boston; *Sophie Cloutier* and *Louis Perron* from St. Paul University, Ottawa; *João Vila-Chã* from Gregorian University, Rome; *David Power* from the CUA School of Theology and Religious Studies; *Séamus Finn* from Justice and Peace Institute, Washington, D.C.; *John Hogan* and *Hu Yeping* from the RVP, etc. The two day meeting was held at the RVP Seminar Room at Gibbons Hall in Washington.



## WORK ACHIEVED IN 2012: ACADEMIC VISITS

### Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C. May 1, 2012: **Academic visit by a delegation of 17 professors from the School of**



**Philosophy, Renmin University of China (RUC), Beijing, China** on May first, 2012. It was led by *Hao Lixin* (Marxist philosophy), Dean, along with *Ge Chenhong* (ethics), General Secretary, *Han Donghui* (Western philosophy and analytical philosophy), Associate Dean, *Liu Dachun* (philosophy of science), Head of RUC Library, *He Guanghu* (religious studies and Christianity), *Xiang Shiling* (Chinese philosophy and neo-Confucianism), *Ouyang Qian* (Western philosophy), *Liu Jinglu*



(philosophy of management), *Zhang Fenglei* (Chinese Buddhism), *Yang Wujin* (logic), *Yu Kailiang* (aesthetics), *Cao Gang* (ethics), *Luo Qian* (political philosophy and Marxist philosophy), *Wei Shan* (Indian and Chinese Buddhism), *Zang Fengyu* (political philosophy and Marxist philosophy), *Liu Wei* (ethics and classical Western philosophy), *Li Kelin* (aesthetics), *Wen Haiming* (Chinese and comparative philosophy), *Su Ya*, and *Wan Zhongying*, professors of the RUC School of Philosophy. *John Hogan*, *John Kromkowski* and *Hu Yeping* met the delegation and held an intensive discussion on thematic issues as well as on future cooperation. A RVP center at RUC was planned during the discussion.



### Washington, D.C.

**Washington, D.C. August 13, 2012: Visit by a delegation from the Summer Training Workshop, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN., United States.**



A delegation of 16 Chinese professors taking part in the Summer Training Workshop on Chinese Spirituality and Society Program paid an academic visit to the RVP. It was led by *Yang Feng-gang*, Director of the Center on Religion and Chinese Society (CRCS), Professor of Sociology, Purdue University. *Yang* took part in the RVP annual fall seminars in the past when studying at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. The Chinese professors, from different departments of many universities across P.R. China, were doing research in this related subject

*George F. McLean*, RVP President, spoke with the delegation on understanding spirituality and religion: holiness is the essence of religion; each culture and tradition has its own spirit of holiness which we pursue in our family, community, and society, i.e., in our daily lives. Our emerging global responsibility is to uncover the philosophical roots of this spirit in each culture and share this with its own and other peoples.



### Washington, D.C.

**Washington, D.C. December 15, 2012: Visit by a delegation from the Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST)**



led by *Ouyang Kang*, Vice President of HUST, and six professors from various schools of HUST: *Hong Ming*, Dean of School of Marxist Studies; *Lu Hongliang* and *Liu Jiajun*, Associate Chairs of the Department of Political Education; *Wang Guohua*, Director of Research Center of Public Opinion and Professor of School of Public Administration; and *Li Zhi*, Director of the Office of Publicity, etc. *George F. McLean* and *Hu Yeping* met the delegation and

discussed related issues, especially the possibilities of future cooperation between HUST and the RVP, such as conferences, seminars, publications. On May 29-30, 2012 HUST and the RVP co-organized a conference at the HUST Department of Philosophy on the theme of communication among cultures and civilizations. Some 15 professors from different countries and many professors and graduate students from China took part in this conference. For more information see page 9-10 of this newsletter.



## WORK ACHIEVED IN 2012: PUBLICATIONS

### Seven Books Published in 2011 in the RVP Series: “Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Change”

#### Series II. Africa

- II.15 *African Philosophy in Ethiopia: Ethiopian Philosophical Studies, II*. Bekele Gutema and Charles C. Verharen, eds. ISMB 9781565182790 (paper).
- II.16 *The Idea of a Nigerian University: A Revisit: Nigerian Philosophical Studies, III*. Olatunji Oyeshile and Joseph Kenny, eds. ISMB 9781565182776 (paper).

#### Series IIIB. South Asia

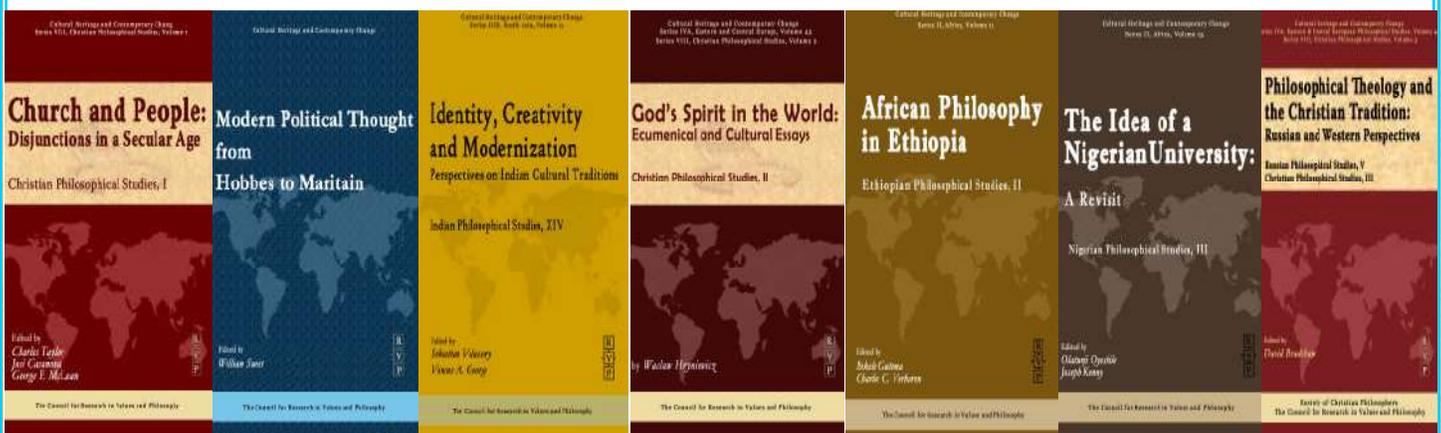
- IIIB.14 *Identity, Creativity and Modernization: Perspectives on Indian Cultural Traditions: Indian Philosophical Studies XIV*. Sebastian Velassery and Vensus A. George, eds. ISBN 978-1-56518-2783 (paper).

#### Series IVA Eastern and Central European Philosophical Studies

- IVA.43 *God's Spirit in the World: Ecumenical and Cultural Essays: Polish Philosophical Studies, XI*. Wacław Hryniewicz. ISBN 9781565182738 (paper).
- IVA.44 *Philosophical Theology and the Christian Tradition, Russian and Western Perspectives: Russian Philosophical Studies, V*. David Bradshaw, ed. ISBN 9781565182752 (paper).

#### Series VIII. Christian Philosophical Studies

- VIII.1 *Church and People: Disjunctions in a Secular Age: Christian Philosophical Studies, I*. Charles Taylor, José Casanova and George F. McLean, eds. ISBN 9781565182745 (paper).
- VIII.2 *God's Spirit in the World: Ecumenical and Cultural Essays: Christian Philosophical Studies, II*. Wacław Hryniewicz. ISBN 9781565182738 (paper).
- VIII.3 *Philosophical Theology and the Christian Tradition, Russian and Western Perspectives: Christian Philosophical Studies, III*. David Bradshaw, ed. ISBN 9781565182752 (paper).
- *Modern Political Thought from Hobbes to Maritain*. William Sweet, ed. ISBN 978-1-56518-2721 (paper).



## Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C. August 28-29, 2012: **"The RVP Board Meeting"**. The RVP Board members met for



two days, August 28-29, 2012, in Washington, D.C.: *Edward Alam, John Hogan, Hu Yeping, John Kromkowski, George F. McLean, Vincent Shen and William Sweet* attended. *João J. Vila-Chã* was teaching in Australia at the time. The agenda was to review what had been done in the year of 2011 and to future challenges and concerns. Considerable time was spent reviewing recent shifts in the field of philosophy which suggest strategic adjustments to the RVP focus and structures in various regions. The current challenges were identified as: the shift of university resources from the humanities to the sciences challenges philosophy to remain a search for wisdom, i.e., for metaphysics, religion and cultural identity and interchange and to relate this to the way of life of the people; the global expansion of university education vastly multiplies the numbers seeking certification in philosophy. In these circumstances, how can the RVP continue to have broad and progressive interaction with philosophical centers through the world? how to promote work at philosophical centers? how to work together with the regional scholars to craft themes central to the progressive responses of philosophy to these times? etc. Thematic concerns arose during the discussion, such as competition for university resources between the sciences and the humanities: philosophy, culture and wisdom; construction of epistemological bridges between the two poles; identity and intercultural enrichment versus deculturation; the emerging role of ethics as newly foundational for philosophy; attention to the many "others" implying new attention to relations and to the whole.

There were some structural adjustments in response to the challenges and concerns that have emerged from the shift of philosophy. The RVP will focus more on the regional leadership, hence, to identify a set of active area coordinators for the various regions across the world. Meanwhile the RVP in cooperation with some philosophical professional organizations is preparing its 2013 pre-Congress Conference to be held on August 1-3, 2013 in Athens, just prior to the World Congress of Philosophy, August 4-10, 2013. Whereas the World Congress of Philosophy must provide a full panoply of single sessions on all areas of philosophy, the RVP pre-Congress conference will focus on the one issue: "Culture and Philosophy as Ways of Life in Times of Global Change," which it will develop progressively and in-depth and over the three days of August 1-3, 2013. Those who will be attending the World Congress of Philosophy in Athens are specially invited to contribute to this uniquely creative RVP philosophical exploration of this key issue for our changing times.



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



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 friendship 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.

*Publication* of the results of this research and critical reflection (over 300 volumes thusfar), and a unique distribution network to 350 university libraries worldwide, as well as through the usual book outlets, with the complete texts available on the web at [www.crvp.org](http://www.crvp.org).

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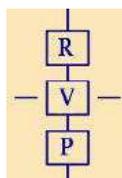
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