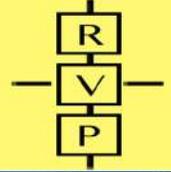


Council for Research in Values and Philosophy



RVP Newsletter — 2018

Message from the Executive Director

2017 has been a busy and fruitful year. This issue of the Newsletter of the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (RVP) describes some of the various rich RVP-co-sponsored academic activities that took place in countries around the world in 2017. Scholars from Asia (India, China, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan), Africa (Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda), and Europe (Austria, Romania and Russia) held conferences focusing on the RVP research project, “**Re-Learning to be Human for Global Times: Challenges and Opportunities.**” Each conference identified and addressed key concerns on this theme, in light of the particular region and culture of the participants, and engaged such specific subthemes as multiculturalism, the possibility of intercultural encounters, secularism, democracy, traditional values and life worlds, justice and responsibility, and the hermeneutics of religions. This research project was initiated and planned by the late Professor **George F. McLean**, founder of the RVP, in December 2015, as a way of preparing for the World Congress of Philosophy, to be held in Beijing, China, August 13-20, 2018 on the theme of “Learning to Be Human.”

In order to build on this project and to plan future research themes of the RVP in these times of transformations in both personal and social lives, a consultation took place last November in Washington, D.C. As part of this activity, and as part of the RVP’s mission to foster peace, dialogue and cooperation among peoples, cultures, religions and civilizations, the RVP is delighted to announce that Professor **Charles Taylor** will serve as its Honorary President. Professor **Taylor** says, “the essence of the transformed life is not something we already possess and must defend, but what we hope we are journeying towards, and will be transformed into....We can also strengthen it by showing how the transformation it aspires to enables us to be more fully human. The human being has a telos towards understanding, and particularly towards understanding the other, other people, other cultures. This involves seeing the good, the value, in the other; and leads eventually to the formation of friendships, solidarities.”

As always, the RVP invites all philosophers and interested scholars to join its research effort of carrying out in-depth study and participating in cooperative research on issues important to peoples, cultures and values. Please continue to send your ideas and suggestions for future projects and cooperation. The RVP is ready to work with you in whatever ways possible.

The RVP wishes to express its deep gratitude to all who have joined the effort and have made rich contributions over the years.

Hu Yeping, January, 2018

Highlights in this Edition

| | |
|---|-------|
| Consultations (Washington, DC): | 2-6 |
| Seminar (Washington, DC): | 7-9 |
| International Conferences (Africa, Asia, Europe): | 10-48 |
| Publications: | 49 |

For more information on the work, projects and publications of The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (RVP), visit the website: www.crvp.org

MCLEAN CENTER

Washington, D.C.

November 13, 2017: The **McLean Center for the Study of Culture and Values (MCSCV)** was officially inaugurated on CUA campus in Washington DC. **George F. McLean** (1929.6-2016.9) was the



George F. McLean, OMI



founder of the International Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (RVP) in 1983 and the Center for the Study of Culture and Values (CSCV), the Catholic University of America (CUA) in 2000. He taught philosophy, especially metaphysics, at the CUA School of Philosophy from 1958 till 1993 when he took early retirement from his teaching position in order to work full-time promoting global philosophical dialogue and cooperation. McLean lectured in so-called developing countries, and traveled intensively to places where key philosophical and cultural issues were debated. He created opportunities and helped philosophers and scholars from many countries and regions to come together for dialogue, communication and cooperation. He mobilized them to form research teams in order to work on issues important to their countries and peoples. He encouraged scholars and philosophers to contribute their scholarly work in answering the vital questions of present times.

In 1984 McLean initiated the annual seminar to invite scholars and philosophers from diverse cultures and civilizations to participate in five to ten week seminars in Washington, D.C. to discuss



A Group Photo

current and urgent philosophical issues. It has lasted 34 years and will continue with the inspiration of his spirit. When serving as the general editor of the RVP publication series "Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Change," McLean helped to bring the work of philosophers from the farthest reaches of the planet into the public eye. McLean carefully edited each paper in every volume as he prepared them for publication. Much of this work is the result of regional teams working together on themes of common interest. Thusfar 300 volumes have been published and many of them are



At the Inauguration

distributed free to 350 university libraries throughout the world, particularly to institutions in 'developing countries'. The full text of most of these volumes is also made available on the internet (see www.crvp.org).

A Memorial Mass was celebrated with **Robert Badillo, Vensus George, Tomas Halik, Philip Rossi, João J. Vila-Chã**, along with **Charles Hurkes, George Kirvin and Louis Studer, OMI**, in the CUA Caldwell Hall Chapel at 12.30pm.

The inauguration was held at the CUA Vincent P. Walter Board Room in Curley Hall, from 3.30pm-6.00pm. **John A. Kromkowski**, Director of MCSCV chaired the event. **Andrew Abela**, CUA Provost, gave an official statement about the establishment of the MCSCV and its significance for the continuation of dialogue among cultures and civilizations. **Charles Hurkes**, OMI, read the congratulation statement from **Louis Studer**, the OMI Provincial. **William Sweet** (Canada), **José Casanova** (Georgetown University), **John Staak**, OMI, **Vensus George** (India), **William A. Barbieri** (CUA), **Tomas Halik** (Czech), **Ouyang Kang** (China), **Merylann J. (Mimi) Schuttloffel** (CUA), **Philip Rossi** (Marquette University), **John P. Hogan** (MCSCV), **Peter Jonkers** (Netherlands), **Anthony Carroll** (Great Britain), **Karim Douglas Crow** (Washington), **Asna Husin** (Indonesia), **Robert Badillo** (New York), **Rosemary Winslow** (CUA), **Mustafa Malik** (Maryland), **Geeta Manaktala** (India), **Gadis Arivia** (Indonesia), **Denys Kiryukhin** (Ukraine), **George Kervin**, OMI, gave testimonies about the importance of the legacy and the spirit in promoting dialogue among different cultures and civilizations, especially in these complex and pluralistic times.



At the Inauguration

RVP BOARD CONSULTATIONS

Washington, D.C.

November 11-12, 2017: "RVP Consultation on the Future Research Plans." Just prior to the inauguration of the McLean Center, the RVP had a two-day consultation on its post work and on future research plans. The previous consultation was held in Tewksbury, December 16-17, 2015 just



A Discussion Session

after the conclusion of its special research project on "Faith in a Secular Age" (2009-2015). The consultation was led by the late **George F. McLean** to discuss possible research themes for the next phase. In accordance with the theme of "Learning to be Human" of the World Congress of Philosophy (WCP) to be held in Beijing, China, August 13-20, 2018, **McLean** had suggested the theme "Re-Learning to be Human for Global Times" to be the RVP focus of following years.

Throughout its history, the RVP has focused on thematic research with team efforts across the world to reflect and study on the circumstances current, urgent and important to peoples, cultures, religions and civilizations in our times, while at the same time keeping specific focus in each particular region. For instance, in the 70s and 80s last century, the research focus in Central and Eastern Europe was to break through ideological barriers and to build post-communist and democratic countries. Such themes as human dignity, the philosophical foundations of transformations of social lives and systems, national identity, etc., were the focus of scholars from that region.



A Group Photo

In the 80s and 90s, in China, the research themes were on economic ethics, the humanization of technology, the moral foundations for society, civil society, relationships between humans and nature, etc. In the 90s when working with Muslim scholars, themes were mainly on the relationship between faith and reason and between religion and culture, dialogue of religions and civilizations, justice and peace, etc. In Africa in the 80s the focus was on the emergence from colonialism and the



A Discussion Session

establishment of their own worldview and philosophy based on their indigenous cultures and identities. In the 21st century, the research focus shifted to challenges and opportunities of globalization with concerns from both global and local levels. With **Samuel P. Huntington's** prophetic claim on clashes of civilizations and the former Iranian President **Mohammad Khatami's** proposal to the United Nations, the RVP began working on themes mainly on dialogue of civi-

lizations, cultures and religions, which had been, in fact, the life-long effort of **McLean**.

The November consultation had a similar nature to the one in 2015, but covered a more broader agenda. It discussed not only the possible thematics which was the major concern, but also some practical issues, such as the preparation for the RVP pre-World Congress of Philosophy conference to be held August 7-9, 2018 at Shandong University, Jinan, China, near Confucius' hometown; the potential RVP panels for the World Congress of Philosophy; annual seminars and the possible themes for the 2018 seminar; publication policies for the RVP publication series "Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Change"; etc.

Participants were RVP administrative Committee Members and Council Members: **William A. Barbieri** (MCSCV), **Anthony Carroll** (University of London, Great Britain), **José Casanova** (Georgetown University, United States), **Tomas Halik** (Charles University, Czech), **John P. Hogan** (MCSCV), **Peter Jonkers** (Tilburg University, Netherlands), **Nur Kirabaev** (Russian People's Friendship University, Russia), **John A. Kromkowski** (MCSCV), **Ouyang Kang** (Huazhong University of Sciences and Technology, China), **Philip J. Rossi** (Marquette University, United States), **Vincent Shen** (University of Toronto, Canada/Taiwan), **William Sweet** (St. Francis Xavier University, Canada), **João J. Vila-Chã** (Pontifical Gregorian University, Italy), and **Hu Yeping** (MCSCV). Most of the participants stayed for the inauguration of the McLean Center on November 13th.



A Discussion Session

Washington, D.C.

March 24-25, 2017: **"RVP Administrative Consultation."** This was the first committee meeting after George F. McLean's passing last September. **William A. Barbieri, Tomas Halik, John P. Hogan, John A. Kromkowski, Philip Rossi, Vincent Shen, William Sweet, João J. Vila-Chã and Hu Yeping** took part in the two day meeting.

The committee meeting discussed the following agendas: (1) naming of the CUA Center for the Study of Culture and Values



At the Symposium

(CSCV) after McLean; (2) plans for the RVP pre-Congress Conference and The World Congress of Philosophy to be held in China in August, 2018; (3) publication policies for the RVP publication series "Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Change" which has published 300 volumes; (4) the experiences of the past seminars and the preparation of the 2017 seminars; (5) possible future research themes and projects; and 6/ organization structures. After the committee meeting and on behalf of the RVP Board, **Barbieri** contacted **Charles Taylor** to invite him to serve as the honorary President of the RVP. **Taylor** accepted.

Just prior the committee meeting a symposium in memory of **George F. McLean** (1929.6-2015.9) promoting the book on *Renewing the Church in a Secular Age: Holistic Dialogue and Kenotic Vision*, was held at the CUA Happel Room, Caldwell Hall on March 24, 10.00am-12.30pm. **William A. Barbieri, Tomas Halik, John A. Kromkowski, Philip Rossi, Vincent Shen, and João J. Vila-Chã** spoke at the symposium. Some talked about the work and the legacy of McLean, his dedication to the effort of dialogue of cultures and civilizations across the world. Some spoke about the project McLean initiated in 2009 in Washington and the 16 teams that produced 16 volumes on various topics related to the general theme. Some recalled the cumulative conference of the project held at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome in March 2015, which resulted in the above-mentioned book. It was the last book **McLean** carefully worked on.



A Group Photo

Renewing the Church in a Secular Age

in memory of *George F. McLean, omi*



**Holistic Dialogue
Kenotic Vision**

Book Presentation & Panel Discussion

William A. Barbieri (CUA, Washington DC)
Tomas Halik (Charles University, Prague)
John A. Kromkowski (CUA, Washington DC)
Philip J. Rossi (Marquette University, Milwaukee)
Vincent Shen (University of Toronto, Toronto)
João J. Vila-Chã (Gregorian University, Rome)

Friday, March 24, 2017, 10.00am-12.30pm
The Happel Room, Caldwell Hall 100



For Questions or accommodations, please contact:
CUA Center for the Study of Culture and Values Telephone: 202/319-6089; Email: cuacsv@cu.edu

ANNUAL SEMINAR

Washington, D.C.

August 21-September 22, 2017: **“Re-Learning to be Human for Global Times: Understanding the Meaning of Being Human across Cultures and Civilizations.”** New and threatening challenges are urging us to re-think and re-evaluate many fundamental issues which had been taken for granted for centuries. How can we understand ourselves? What is the meaning of being human? How do we relearn to be authentically human in contemporary circumstances?

We are called to overcome self-enclosure and so be open to the ‘Other’, as Emmanuel Levinas famously stresses, or to the multiple others, as Vincent Shen wisely articulates. We must live in relationships towards the presence of other human beings and their distinct approaches to the



João J. Vila-Chã

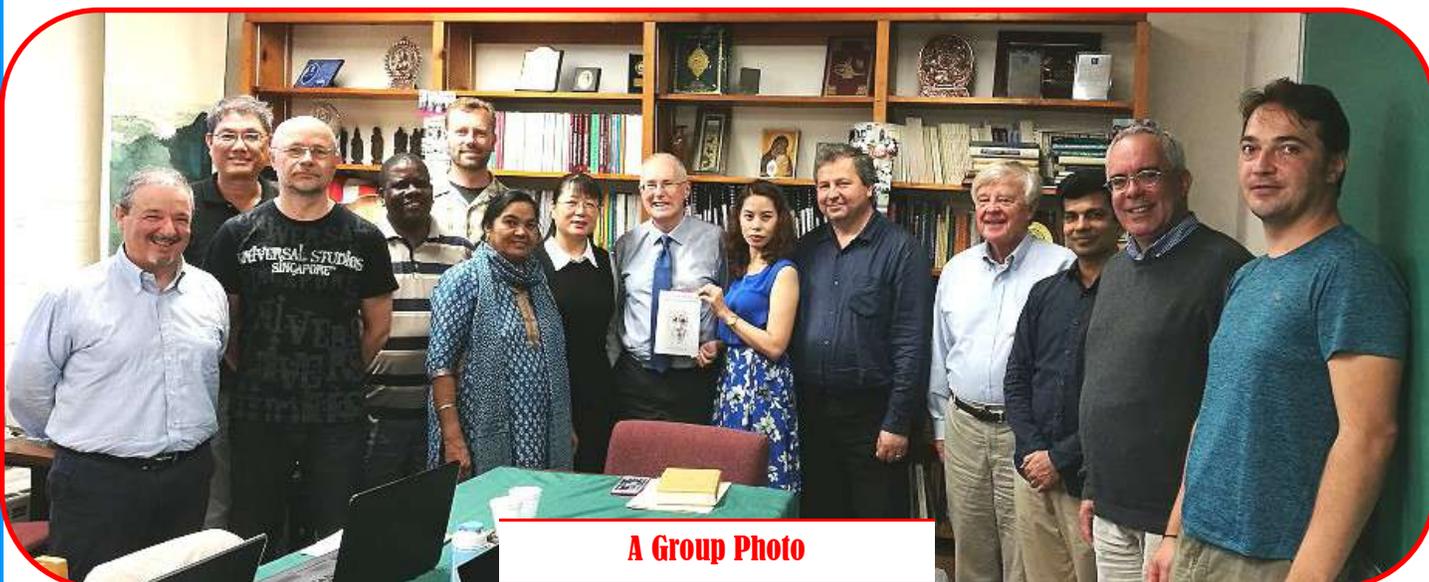
challenges faced in their lives. As George F. McLean often said, we need to be attentive to the uniqueness of the cultural identity of each people and each civilization, and to their proper way of cultivating the meaning of being a person. Hence, it is necessary to go beyond merely economic and political concerns when dealing with the nature of human beings, and to relearn how to uncover and experience anew of the role of religion in the process of the reconfiguration of human and cultural identities in these



John A. Kromkowski

challenging global times.

The seminar was composed in three parts: 1. The first three weeks were devoted to readings on a complex hermeneutics of the Western notion of the person and its cognates in different cultures and civilizations, and with the exploration of the thought of George F. McLean on related thematic issues. 2. The fourth week focused on David Walsh’s *The Modern Philosophic Revolution: The Luminosity of Existence* and *The Politics of the Person as the Politics of Being*, to explore some notions of the person applied in the understanding of the human being as an existent, open structurally to others and concomitantly to the Ultimate Other. 3. In the last week, each seminar participant presented their paper on related issues on human beings.



A Group Photo



David Walsh

The seminar was directed jointly by **João J. Vila-Chã**, Philosophy Professor, Gregorian University (Rome) and RVP Vice President, and **John A. Kromkowski**, Director

of the CUA McLean Center for the Study of Culture and Values (MCSCV). **David Walsh**, CUA Professor of Political Science, spent one week introducing his two books as mentioned above. Seminar participants were from such diverse countries as China, India, Italy, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Taiwan, Tanzania, Vietnam, as well as the United States. This was the 34th annual seminar held in Washington.



A Seminar Session

Gil Bailie, the author of *Violence Unveiled: Humanity at the Crossroads* (1995) on René Girard and *God's Gamble: The Gravitational Power of Crucified Love* (2016), discussed with the seminar



Gil Bailie

participants issues related to Girard's anthropological theories and Christian faith and religious experiences. Bayor Chantal Ngoltoingar from the Republic of Chad was invited to speak again to the seminar participants about her personal experience based on her small book *L'Obscurité sous le Soleil* to illustrate how difficult to understand human person in an appropriate manner, especially in facing one's own traditions.



Bayor Chantal Ngoltoingar

Seminar participants read related materials from different traditions: Jacques Maritain's *The Person and The Common Good*; *Brahman and Person: Essays by Richard De Smet*, edited by Ivo Coelho; Warren Bourgeois's *Persons: What Philosophers Say about You*; John D. Zizioulas' *Communion and Otherness: Further Studies in Personhood and the Church*; Robert Sokolowski's *Phenomenology of the Human Person*; Calvin O. Schrag's *The Self after Postmodernity*; Seyla Benhabib's *Situating the Self: Gender Community and Postmodernism in Contemporary Ethics*; and George F. McLean's *Religion and Culture*.

Seminar participants also presented their own papers: **Renzo Beghini** (Diocesan Seminary, Italy) "The relationship in the historical development of the idea of person: Some reflections on the origin



Seminar Sessions





Closing Ceremony

of the word and the Paul Rocoer's contribution"; **Do Thi Kim Hoa** (Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences, Vietnam) "Ho Chi Minh's Idea On Human Rights - One Of The Basic To Create Values For Lives Of Vietnamese"; **Valery Kiselev** (Russian People's Friendship

University, Russia) "Spiritual Crisis and the Concept of 'Human' in Modern Chinese Thought"; **Krzysztof Korzyk** (Jesuit University Ignatianum, Poland) "Wisdom over Knowledge: Triaging Educational Challenges for the 21st Century"; **Liao Hsueh-Ming** (Chang Jung Christian University, Taiwan) "The Markan 'Christ' and 'Son of God': 'Let the Reader (in Taiwan) Understand' the (Probable) Meanings of Being Human across Cultures and Civilizations through the Gospel of Mark"; **Almas Fortunatus Mazigo** (Dar es Salaam University College of Education, Tanzania) "Relearning to Be Human in the Context of Global Poverty: Insights from Bantu Thought"; **Asha Mukherjee** (Visva-Bharati University, India) "Are Women Persons? A Moral Concern (Indian Context)"; **Michal Valčo** (Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia) "Toward a Better Understanding of the Relational and Narrative Identity of the Human Person"; **Ajay Verma** (Jawaharlal Nehru University, India) "Consciousness and Person: Constructionist and Non-Constructionist Accounts in Indian Philosophy"; **Xing Jianhua** (Fujian University of Technology, China) "The Development and Predicament of Civil Society in China"; and **Simon Yin** (Shanton University, China) "Human Being in *Huainanzi*." **Michal Reka** (John Paul II Institute, Poland) also spoke on solidary and the meaning of being human today.

As usual the **Graham** family invited the seminar participants for a one-day outing at their house in Chesapeake Bay; and **John Farina** (George Mason University) invited them for a baseball competition. The **Michalski** family also invited the participants for a dinner at their house.



Gatherings

CONFERENCES IN AFRICA

Harare, Zimbabwe

May 13, 2017 **“Re-Learning to be Human for Global Times: Philosophy, Race and Multiculturalism in Southern Africa.”** This conference was held on the campus of the University of Zimbabwe (UZ) and hosted by the UZ Department of Religious Studies, Classics and Philosophy, Faculty of



Francis Mabiri



Itai Muwati



R. Magosvongwe



Pedzisayi Mashiri



Fainos Mangena

Arts. It was initiated, planned and coordinated by **Fainos Mangena**, **Frank Mabiri**, and others from the Department. The goal of the conference was to look into issues related to who should define African philosophy in Africa, in general, and in Southern Africa in particular. This debate has never ceased among African scholars. How African ethics should be defined and characterized in order to determine the direction of African philosophy are also part of this conversation. Although not quite explicit, however, these discussions have often taken racial dimensions with philosophers involved fighting for space and place to assert themselves over and above others. Such questions arose as (1) Is the multicultural approach to philosophy useful? (2) Who should define and characterize African philosophy? (3) Are there any problems associated with defining philosophy in terms of race, geographical and cultural boundaries?

The conference was well-attended by scholars and students from UZ and other Universities in Zimbabwe. **R. Magosvongwe**, Chairperson of the UZ Department of Languages, was the director of conference ceremonies. At the opening **Pedzisayi Mashiri**, UZ Pro-Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, spoke on behalf of its Vice Chancellor, **L.M. Nyagura**; **Itai Muwati**, Dean of the UZ School of Arts and **R.S. Maposa**, Chair of the Department gave welcome remarks. **M. Chirere**, Professor of



A Group Photo

The UZ Department of English read a poem; **Fainos Mangena** introduced the conference objectives; and **Hu Yeping** spoke on behalf of the RVP as its Executive Director.

R. Magosvongwe chaired the first panel session with speakers **Fainos Mangena** "Racial Prejudices in the Current South African Philosophical Discourses" and **T.A. Chimuka** (the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Botswana) "Tolerance, Multiculturalism and the Challenges of Ethnic Hierarchy and Xenophobia in Southern Africa." **K. Biri** chaired the second panel session with such speakers as **S. Sibanda** (Canterbury College, United Kingdom) "Justice and Being: Denying the Dignity of another Human Being is Denying one's Own Humanity"; **O.T. Hapanyengwi** (Dean of the UZ Faculty of Education) "Multiculturalism and Education in Zimbabwe"; along with **I. Munyiswa** "Trump's Walls, Brexit and the end of the Liberal Multicultural World: Lessons for Southern Africa" and **J.D. McClymont** "Some Misconceptions About Culture." At the three parallel sessions chaired by **F. Matambirofa**, **F. Machingura** and **H. Mushangwe** respectively. A number of scholars from the UZ Department of Philosophy presented their papers: **C T Zimunya** "Xenophobia: an Inevitable Consequence of the Human Species"; **C.M. Hatendi** "Contraception, Multiculturalism and Hunhu/Ubuntu in Zimbabwe"; **M. Moyo** "Animals in African and Western oral Wisdom Literatures: Towards an Alternative Philosophy"; **C.T. Zimunya** and **C.M. Hatendi** "Education, Religion and Multiculturalism"; **Francis Mabiri** "Race and Solidarity in Zimbabwe"; **J. Gwara** "The African as "the other" in a Multicultural Society"; **J.A. Maritz** "Concepts of Identity: 'Africa' and Africans"; **S. Zvingowanisei** "African Traditional Religion and Violence: A Case study of the Shona Women in Zimbabwe"; **N.T. Taringa** "The Dignity of Difference: Promises and Problems of Ubuntu in a Multicultural Society"; **P. Chamburuka** "The Politics of Hermeneutics: An Inquiry into the Pneumatological Conflicts in the Multicultural Apostolic Faith Mission in Zimbabwe"; **K. Biri** "'Whites are Just the Skin': A Critique of the Discourse of Pan Africanism in Pentecostalism" along with **S. Bigirimana** (Africa University, Zimbabwe) "Negritude and the Civilisation of the Universal: The Impact of a Philosophy of Culture on the Management of the State in Post-colonial Africa"; **N. Makuvaza** (the UZ Department of Educational Foundations) "Chirere chigokurereawo: Interrogating the Place of OPHs in Postcolonial Spaces in Zimbabwe"; **A. Rutsviga** (Great Zimbabwe University) "Philosophy, Race and Violence in Post-Colonial Zimbabwe"; and **N. Muonwa** and **N. Chivandikwa** (the UZ Department of Theatre Arts) "The Tragedy of a Unisonant and Monologic National Perspective on the Zimbabwean Theatre Stage." **Fainos Mangena** concluded the conference and talked about the publication of the conference papers; **T. Shoko** gave a vote of thanks.



A Conference Session



During the Break

Nsukka, Nigeria

May 15-16, 2017: **“Re-Learning to be Human for Global Times: Humanism, Faith and Secularism Today.”** This conference was held on the campus of University of Nigeria (UN) in Nsukka. It was planned and organized by **Joseph C.A. Agbakoba** and **Anthony Ajah**, Professors from the UN. One of the purposes of the conference was to honor Professor George F. McLean. In his welcome address, **Anthony Ajah** explained that McLean “died a gadfly in his own time. Can we be gadflies too in our time and societies? While we blame others for pay attention to research on development-impeding ideologies and practices? While we blame others for pay closer attention to our-identify even a subcon-preferences that continue to motivate our actions? from many angles by Philosophers, Anthropologists, researchers in Religious Studies, and other researchers in the Humanities, to support what is called ‘African Culture’ [as if there is any such single culture that is African], can we learn from George McLean that our best attitude to any culture must be two-way: not only positive [with the intention to preserve what is called ‘our heritage’] but necessarily also critical [to identify and reconstruct/ reject development-impeding ideologies and practices]?” “Can we be a team of researchers who pay attention and engage in research on the hidden predominant values and preferences that have continued to determine the actions and inactions of the larger percentage of the members of our contemporary local and global societies? This is more important than excavating and philosophizing in defense of development-impeding ideologies and practices all in the name of preserving our cultural values and heritages.”



Anthony Ajah



Joseph C.A. Agbakoba

While technological developments mean to be human, can we what makes us human? every ill around us, can we ourselves and our societies to conscious set of values and shape our aspirations and While we are encouraged

The conference was opened by a prayer by **Aloysius Obiwulu** and opening remarks by **Joseph C.A. Agbakoba**, RVP Regional Coordinator in Africa. Participants spoke in two sessions, a number of scholars from the Department of Philosophy, University of Nigeria, Nsukka presented their papers: **Augustine Akwu Atabor** “Desmond William, Astonishment and the Ineluctable God-Narrat



A Group Photo

ive”; **Imo State Gabriel C. Otegbulu** “Moral Judgement in Multicultural Societies”; **Winifred Chioma Ezeanya** “Discourse: The Search for Order in the Public Sphere”; **Innocent Enwe** “Faith and Reason in the Age of Secularism and Relativism”; and **Anayochukwu K.J.P. Ugwu** “The Irony of Humanism: An Evaluation of Philosophy, also spoke: **Jude C. Transcendent** [A Quest interpretation of the **Romanus A. Anosike** Modernism: Their Im-Time.” **Oladapo Jimoh**



tion.” Scholars from the Department of Wisdom Seminary, Owerri **Onyeakazi** “Longing for the for a New Understanding or Re-Concept of ‘Being Human’”; and “Humanism, Secularism and Post-lications in our Contemporary **Balogun** from the Department of

Philosophy, Lagos State University, Lagos presented his paper on “Re-Learning to be Human in Global Times: Sage Philosophy and the Gadfly Task in African Philosophy.” **Imo State Amos A. Ichabaa** from the Department of Philosophy, Madonna University, Okija, and **Philip A. Idachabab** from the the Department of Philosophy, Kogi State University, Anyigba, presented a joint paper on “Secularism and Faith in a Trans-modern World.” **Richard Taye Oyelakin** from the Department of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, spoke on “Why did the Machine Work? A Functional-Theistic Interpretation from Computational Functionalism.” **Mary Christine Ugobi-Onyemere** from the Department of Philosophy, Pontifical Urbaniana University in Rome presented her paper on “Thomistic Notion of Mercy: A Crucial Cross-Cultural and Interreligious Element in Being Human”; while **Ikenna Paschal Okpaleke** from Research Unit of Systematic Theology and Study of Religions, Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium spoke on “Brewing the Pot of Generous Tolerance: It is time for Believers and Non-Believers to sit around the Same Table?.” **Desmond Nbete** from the Department of Philosophy, University of Port Harcourt talked about “From Multiculturalism to Humanistic Secularism: Harnessing Nigeria’s Cultural Diversity”; **Josephine N. Akah** from the Humanities Unit, School of General Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka on “Being Human in the Face of Religious Fundamentalism: Implications for Human Development in Nigeria.” **Aloysius Obiwulu** and **Deborah Obi** from the School of General Studies, University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus also took part in the meeting.



A Group Photo

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

May 18, 2016: **“Re-Learning to be Human for Global Times: Rethinking Diversity in East and Southern Africa.”** It was an academic visit at the Department of Philosophy, University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) and Dar es Salaam University College of Education (DUCE) to discuss with scholars from both institutions about the possibility of cooperation on research projects, conferences, and publications. **Helen Lauer**, Professor of the UDSM Department of Philosophy, arranged the meetings. **Hu Yeping** from the RVP and **Adolf Mihanjo**, Chairperson along with other colleagues from the Department of Philosophy, **Magoti Cornelli**, **Jackson Coy**, **Philbert Komu**, **Azaveli Lwaitam**, **Eric Mgalula**, **Tu-mainimungu**



Helen Lauer



At UDSM

Mosha and **Josephat Muhoza** took part in the

discussion. The discussions were fruitful and productive and covered many issues relating to the future development of the Department, its library, research projects, publications, etc. Participants expressed their interest and willingness to work together on the issues raised. **Helen Lauer** was asked to form a research team to work with scholars from East and Southern African countries on the theme entitled “Rethinking Diversity in East and Southern Africa.”

After the meeting with the Department of Philosophy, **Hu Yeping** along with **Adolf Mihanjo** and **Jackson Coy** visited **Rose A. Upor**, Principal of the UDSM College of Humanities, who was



With the Principal

quite supportive for the proposed project and expressed willingness to help in ways the College could manage. She also expressed her personal interest in joining the related research project. In August, **Rose A. Upor** proposed a joint publication project with the RVP on a conference proceedings on “Cartographies of War and Peace in Eastern Africa.” The conference was held at UDSM, August 24-26, 2017, as part of Eastern African Literary and Cultural Studies project.

Almas Mazigo from DUCE arranged another meeting with his colleagues there. Colleagues from DUCE were concerned about the future development of the College including curriculum, student activities, faculty formation, library collections, etc. The result from the discussion was to invite Almas Mazigo to attend the 2017 RVP



Almas Mazigo



At DUCE

annual seminar and to send the set of the RVP publications to the DUCE library. Luka Mkonongwa, Director of the DUCE library, expressed his deep interest in receiving the RVP publications. When Almas Mazigo came to Washington to attend the RVP seminar in August, he collected related books from the RVP publications and brought them back to the DUCE library.

Abdullah Mohammed, Professor of the UDSM Department of Film and Documentary, accompanied Hu Yeping to Zanzibar University (ZU) to explore the possibility of future cooperation. They met the Dean and some colleagues from the ZU School of Literature and Language and exchanged ideas and concerns about current situations around the world and in the region, and wished to work together for the peaceful co-existence.



At Zanzibar University

It was possible to pay a visit to the museum in Bagomoyo ("lay down your heart") and the site in Zanaibar where the slave trade took place in the past.



Bagamoyo Slave Museum



Nairobi, Kenya

May 22-23, 2017: **“Re-Learning to be Human for Global Times: Beyond Liberal Democracy: The Quest for Indigenous African Models of Democracy for the 21st Century.”** This conference was planned and organized by **Reginald M.J. Oduor**, Professor of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, University of Nairobi.



Opening Session



Reginald M.J. Oduor

The purpose of the conference was to look into the process of democratisation in post-colonial African states. There have been two models of governing in Africa: 1. liberal democratic constitutions, and 2. military regimes which completely dismiss the authority of constitutions. Growing evidence indicates the failure of liberal democratic constitutions, which emphasize individual liberties more than communal responsibilities. This is alien to the African traditions. Thus, some scholars talked about “the failure of democracy in Africa,” while others pointed out what has failed in Africa is liberal democracy rather than democracy as such. The conference participants were asked to pay attention to the evaluation of democratisation in Africa with the following questions: 1. Is democracy universally applicable, or does it require adaptation to cultural realities? 2. To what extent has the adoption of Western liberal models of democracy hindered democratisation in post-colonial African states? 3. How can indigenous African political thought be utilised in the endeavour to design models of democracy that are suited to the socio-cultural realities of post-colonial African states?



A Group Photo

The conference was held on the campus of University of Nairobi (UN). **Reginald M.J. Oduor** chaired the opening when **S.I. Akaranga**, Chair of the Department, **Peter Wasamba**, Dean of Faculty of Arts, and **Oriare Nyarwath**, Professor from the Department gave remarks. **Enos Njeru**, Principal of College of Humanities and Social Sciences, spoke on behalf of **Peter M.F. Mbithi**, Vice-Chancellor. **Wamae Muriuki** from the Department gave a vote of thanks.



A Conference Session

There were six sessions. Session I and II were on “Critique of Liberal Democracy in Africa”; Session III on “Critique of the Quest for Africa-Specific Models of Democracy”; and Session IV, V and VI on “Indigenous African Models of Democracy.” The sessions were chaired by **Oriare Nyarwath**, **Jacinta Mwendu Maweu**, **Wamae Muriuki**, **Edward Wamala** and **Winnie V. Mitullah** respectively.

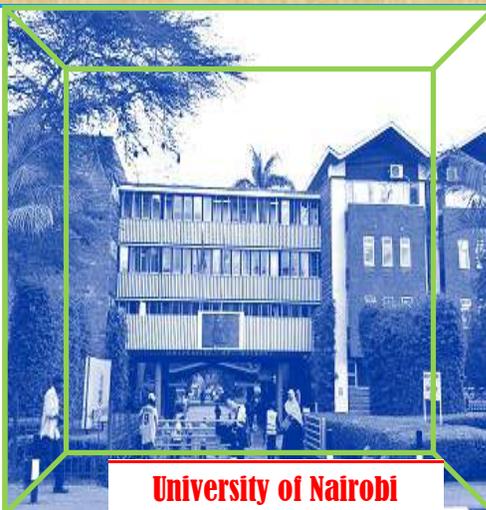
Scholars from the University of Nairobi presented their papers: **J.N.K. Mugambi** “A Critique of Notions of Democracy as Applied in the Twenty-first Century”; **Jack Anselm Odhiambo** “Who are the “People” in a Democracy?”; **Winnie V. Mitullah** “Liberal Constitutional Democracy Deficit in Africa: Interrogating Opportunities and Challenges”; **Jacinta Mwendu Maweu** “From Liberal to Consociational democracy: Which way for Africa?” and **Reginald M.J. Oduor** “In Defence of Ethnically based Federations in Post-Colonial African States, with Special Reference to Kenya,” and **Joseph Situma** and **Kisemei Mutisya** (United States International University, Kenya) “Tentative Elements of African Indigenous Models of Democracy.” Scholars from other Kenyan Institutions also spoke at the sessions: **David Jesse Oduor** (Advocate of High Court of Kenya) “The Fallacy of Liberal



A Conference Session

Democracy in Africa”; and **J.P. Odoch Pido** and **Donna K. Pido** (The Technical University of Kenya) “A Design Perspective on Democracy and Democratic Models” and “Democracy as Falsehood: Seek But Do Not Expect to Find.” Scholars from other African Universities presented their papers: from Great Zimbabwe University, Zimbabwe: **Dennis Masaka** “Colonialism and the Challenge of Western-style Democracy in Africa” and **Munamoto Chemhuru**

“The Quest and Limits of Liberal Africa: An appeal to the Communi-
 versity of KwaZuluNatal, South
 “Consensual Democracy and the
 and **Siphetfo N. Dlamini** “Ake's
 Democracy: A New Perspective of
 Africa”; from Makerere University,
 “The Rule of Law versus the Rule
 Kings): A Classical Solution to a
Robinah S. Nakabo “Gender Sensi-
 ership in Africa: The Case of Ugan-
Tshimba “The Pitfalls of Liberal



Democracy in Post-Colonial
 tarian Model”; from Uni-
 Africa: **Khondlo Mtshali**
 Expansion of the Mind”
 Model of Consociational
 a Holistic Development in
 Uganda, **Edward Wamala**
 of Good Men (Philosopher
 Contemporary Problem,”
 tive Followership and Lead-
 da,” and **David-Ngendo**
 Democracy: Lessons from

Electioneering in Democratic Republic of the Congo,” from Federal University NdufuAlike Ikwo,
 Nigeria: **Emefiena Ezeani** “Cooperative Collegial Democracy: An Alternative African Context-
 relevant Political Model,” and **Francis Chigozie Ofoegbu** “Democracy in Africa: the Need for the
 Practice of Universal Communalism”; **Solomon Ochepa OdumaAboh** (Kaduna State University,
 Nigeria) “Communalism as an Authentic Basis for an Enduring Democracy in the Twenty-first Cen-
 tury Nigerian Society”; **Moses Oludare Aderibigbe** (The Federal University of Technology, Nige-
 ria) “Democracy and the Right of the Minority in Africa”; **Tayo Raymond Ezekiel Eegunlusi**
 (Federal University of Technology, Nigeria) “Critical Reflections on Africans’ Consideration of a
 (Monolithic) Democratic Alternative to Liberal Democracy.” Scholars from other continents also
 spoke: **Sirkku K. Hellsten** (The Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala, Sweden) “African Political Ideology
 and Practice in the Era of Globalization: From Communitarian Socialism to Authoritarian Neo-
 liberalism: The Next Steps?”; **Thomas Menampampil** (Guwahati, Assam, India) “Strengthening
 Indigenous Values to Facilitate the Emergence of Suitable Forms of Democracy”; **Dan Chitoiu**
 (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania) “Reconsidering Hierarchy: Justice and Responsi-
 bility in an Alternative Social Scenario”; and **Hu Yeping** “Democracy and the Common Good.”

Reginald M.J. Oduor and **Hu Yeping** spoke at the concluding session on behalf of the De-
 partment and the RVP. Conference proceedings are under preparation for publication in the RVP
 Publication Series entitled “Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Change.”



Conference Sessions

Nairobi, Kenya

May 27-28, 2017: **“Re-Learning to be Human for Global Times: African Values in the Contemporary World.”** This conference was proposed and planned by **Ernest Beyaraza**, Professor of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA) when he visited in Washington in 2016. The purpose of the conference was to study currently the clashes between values, for instance, the clashes between African traditional and contemporary values. According to the African traditions, marriage is the lynchpin of all societal life, because (1) it connotes immortality, a continuum of the past, present, and future, and in the hereafter; and (2) it encompasses a plethora of relationships, namely, between fellow human beings, between families, between communities and the environment, between living persons and ancestors, and between human beings and their creator. In reality, African life, values and cultural traditions have been persistently reliving, reviving and evolving in its rich soil despite the imposed ideas, policies, and paradigms. Nevertheless, many traditional values have been distorted in different ways in the African continent. The clash between the modern and traditional values and ways of life has raised many unprecedented challenges which urge us to take special attention.



Justus Mbae



Ernest Beyaraza

The conference was opened by a prayer by **Pius Male**, CUEA Deputy Vice Chancellor, along with welcoming remarks by **Maurice Ajwang Owuor**, CUEA Dean of Faculty of Law; reflections on the conference thematic by **Sagary Kau**, CUEA Deputy Vice Chancellor; the keynote address by **Justus Mbae**, CUEA Vice Chancellor; and remarks on the vision, mission and activities of the RVP by **Hu Yeping**. The main speech “The Clash Between Modern and Traditional Values in the Developing World” was by **Thomas Menamparampil**.

The first session was on “Family Values and African Traditions.” Several speakers presented their papers: **Deo Katundano** (Centre for Social Justice and Ethics, CUEA) “The Impact of Post Colonialism Practices on Rebuilding African Family Values”; **Radoslaw Malionowski** (Tangaza University College, Kenya) “Rebuilding African Family Values based on Transformational Leadership”;



A Group Photo

Selline Oketch (Department of Languages, Literature and Communication, CUEA) “Fostering Family Values: Rethinking the Foundational Role of African Literature”; **Joseph Okumu** (Centre for Social Justice and Ethics, CUEA) “The Impact of Colonialism Practices on African Family Values: The Role of Family Values in Peacebuilding”; and **Caroline Nkoberanyi** (St Augustine University, Tanzania) “Hospitality in the Family as a Cultural and Biblical value with special reference to East Africa.” In the second session, “Values Conflicts and



A Conference Session

Human Wisdom,” another set of scholars spoke: **Ouyang Kang** (Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, China) “World Complexity, Value, Conflict and Human Wisdoms in the Global Time”; **Dan Chitoiu** (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Romania) “Tradition and Novelty in a Globalised Culture: The Role of Spirituality”; **Nambuya Sharon Sylvia** (Center for Social Justice and Ethics, CUEA) “Effectiveness of Refugee Integration Mechanism on Peaceful Co-Existence in Kiriandongo Settlement in Kiriandongo District, Uganda”; **Radoslaw Malinowski** (Tangaza College, Kenya) “Conceptualization as an International Perception of Human Trafficking: The Case of East Africa”; **Ernest Beyaraza** (Faculty of Law, CUEA) “Concepts of Values in Relation to Conflict Prevention, Resolution, Management, and Promotion in the Africa-West Encounter Context.” The third session was on “Case Studies on Value Conflicts.” Presenters were all from the Center for the Study of Social Justice and Ethics, CUEA: **Steven Kezanutima** “Burundi Beyond an Ethnic Conflict”; **Gorret Muthoni Wanyoike** “Social Cohesion: The Soft Underbelly of Peacebuilding in Kenya”; **Mathias Kaleke Sadiki** “The Importance of Education in the Implementation of Social Justice in the DRC”; and **Katah Ian Kiprotich** “Effective Resettlement of International Displaced Persons and Peacebuilding: Case Study of Uasin Gishu County, Kenya.” In the fourth session “Human Values and Responsibility” speakers included: **Jane Wathuta** (Strath



Concluding Session



VC with Foreign Participants

more University, Kenya) "The Role of Parenting in Addressing Social Behavioural Risks among Adolescents, What Africa Can Learn from the West"; **Hu Yeping** "Responsibility Understood in the Chinese Tradition"; **G. Ojwang Ochieng** (Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Kenyatta University, Kenya) "Justice for the Elderly: Reconstruction of the Place of Old People in Africa within Globalised Culture"; **Raphael Mbendera** (Philosophy Department, CUEA) "African Humanism as a tool of combatting Environmental Crisis in Africa"; and Peter Zhang (Beijing, China) "Caritas -- The Ultimate Human Value." In the fifth session "Philosophical Reflections on African Reality" presenters



A Conference Session



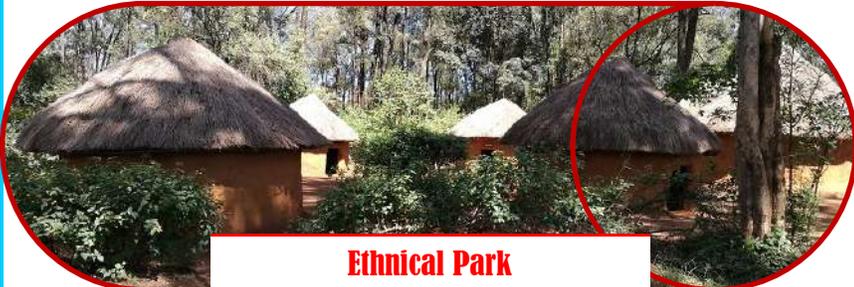
Graduation Ceremony



A Discussion

were all from the Department of Philosophy, CUEA: Moses Ayieko Ntabo "Philosophical Quest for Justice and Fairness and its Relevance in Kenya"; **Antony Okumu** "The Role of Ubuntu Philosophy in Addressing Tribalism in Africa"; **Peter Mburu Njoroge** "The Kipsigis Concept of Death"; and **Nafula Fredrick Wanjala** "The Role of the Quest in Metaphysics: Ideas from Emerich Coreth." In the concluding session, **Justus Mbae**, **Thomas Menampampil**, **Ernest Beyaraza** and **Hu Yeping** spoke on behalf the CUEA, RVP and all the participants.

During the conference, some participants took part in the annual graduation ceremony, and also visited the ethnic park and Danish author **Karen Blixen's** residence. She was known for her book *Out of Africa*.



Ethnical Park



Karen Blixen

Kampala, Uganda

July 1-2, 2017: "Re-Learning to be Human for Global Times: Philosophy, Information Technologies and Changes of the African Life Worlds." This conference was held on the campus of Makerere University with participants from different Universities in Uganda and other African countries.



Wilfred Lajul

Edward Wamala

Peter Kanyandago

John Ddumba Ssentamu

Robonah Nakabo

The meeting was planned by **Edward Wamala**, Professor of Philosophy, and coordinated by **Robonah Nakabo**, Lecturer of Philosophy. Both of them took part in the RVP seminars in the past. The purpose of the conference was to examine the impact of information technologies on traditional African lifestyles. The pace of such technological invasion is unprecedented and rapidly increasing. Local communities are finding themselves playing a catch-up game in an ever changing landscape of technology. The problematic is that when the African sub Continent is receiving and absorbing values purveyed in different media channels, she is contributing little or nothing by way of adding to values consumed, but as a passive receiver. The Africans are receiving and savoring values of others and not portraying their own values in return. The questions were asked: 1. What challenges do we encounter when communities with high levels of illiteracy (and poverty) are subjected to relentless value bombardment from the developed West? 2. How is this one-sided flow of values going to affect sub Saharan value development? 3. What strategies can sub Saharan states deploy to reverse the trend? 4. Does it make sense (in a globalised world) to care what values different communities contribute or consume? 5. Is it sufficient to take whatever values we encounter and do the best we can with them? 6. Are there internal weaknesses which predispose third world communities to relentless value bombardment without adequate means to fight back?



A Group Photo

The conference was organized by the Department of School of Liberal and Performing Arts, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Makerere University (MU). **Wilfred Lajul**, chairperson of the Department, chaired the opening session. **John Ddumba Ssentamu** (MU Vice Chancellor) gave the opening remarks; **Peter Kanyandago** (Director, Nyamitanga Campus of Uganda Martyrs University, Nkozi) gave the keynote address on the impact of information technologies on African values; and **Robert Kakuru** gave a vote of thanks.



Alex Nkabahona and **A.B. Rukooko** chaired the first session "Technologies and Social Life" when **Wilfred Lajul** "African Communalism and the Paradox of Globalization in the World"; **Mercy Mirembe Ntangaare** "The Stage as an Experimental Space for Post-Modern Impulses and new Technologies"; **Jane Wathuta** "African Communitarian Principles Need Information Technologies in Today's Era"; **Elizabeth Nakayiza** "Interrogating the Multidimensional Implications of Various Technological Advances on Social life"; and **Yamikani Ndasauka** "Re-learning to Socialize in Africa: The Case of Online Social Networking Addiction in Malawi." **Jane Wathuta** chaired the second session "Generation, Legitimation and Access to Knowledge." Participants presented their papers: **Obura E. Atieno** and **Jacinta M. Adhiambo** "Educational Planner in the Development of Africa: Director, Actor, Both or None?"; and **Johnnie Wycliffe Frank Muwanga-Zake** "Whose Education is it? The Exclusion of African Values from Higher Education." **Christine Mpyangu** and **Thomas Menampampil** chaired the third session "Value Contestations in a Globalize World" when **Ayokunle Olumuyiwa Omobowale** spoke on "Modernisation and Second-hand Values in South Western Nigeria"; again **Johnnie Wycliffe Frank Muwanga-Zake** on "Towards Validating Research Discourses among Bantu in Africa: Obuntubulamu as a Possible Trans-



forming Agent”; **Thomas Menampampil** “Philosophical Thought and Religious Convictions at the Service of Society”; **Ellen Jacobsson** “A perspective Culture; an Affirmation of the Contradiction between Cultural Essentialism and Tentative Objectivity”; **John Barugahare** “Fascination of Identity in Africa’s Search for Better Self: Understanding Uganda’s Reactions to Sex-related Harms”; **Nkabahona Alex** “Value Contestations in a Globalized World: Heterosexuality versus Queer Identities”;



Lydia Muthuma “The Image of Woman: Mediating cultural values through visual images”; and **Bernard Luwerekera** “African Values at the Cross-roads of a Liberalised Global Culture.” **Kasozi Mutaawe** and **Elizabeth Nakayiza** chaired the parallel sessions on “Open Borders and National Interests” and “Governance and Human Rights” respectively. Speakers presented their papers in those sessions: **Veneranda Mbabazi** and **Helen Nambalirwa Nkabala** “Is the Closure of Open Boarders in National Interest an Appropriate Response to Violent Extremism? Exploring the Dilemma”;

Donnah Atwagala “The Effects of Economic Globalization of Landownership in Post Conflict Area of Amuru: Gender Analysis”; **Linda Lillian** “When Governance Gives Meaning to Human Rights: The case of Women’s Right to Lead as Representatives”; **Kizito Michael George** “Re-thinking African Development from Ubuntu, African Socialism and Neoliberalism Paradigms to Dignified Humanness”;



and **Nixon Wamamela** “Social Media as a New Mode of Global Constitutionalism: The case of Uganda.”

There was also a session devoted to “African Humanities Programme (AHP)” for Ph.D. students mentored by **Sati Fwatshak** and **Muyiwa Omobowale**. In the concluding session **Hu Yeping** spoke on the future development of philosophy, technology and African lifeworlds; **Edward Wamala** and **Wilfred Lajul** gave concluding remarks to assure the future cooperation between the Department and the RVP and to work on the conference papers for final publication in the RVP publication series “Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Change.” **Patrick Mangeni** gave a vote of thanks.



CONFERENCES IN ASIA

Shanghai, China

July 9-10, 2017: **“Re-Learning to be Human for Global Times: Self-awareness of Life in a New Era.”** This conference was planned and coordinated by **He Xirong** and **Shi Yongze**, Professors of Institute of Philosophy, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS) and was held at the SASS conference hall with participants from different countries around the world.



Huang Kaifeng



Vincent Shen



He Xirong



Shi Yongze

The purpose of the conference was to look into issues related to the rapid changes and developments of social life which have caused some confusion with our life, our world and ourselves as human beings. Some questions were focused by the participants: What is the most conspicuous change taking place in our time? What are the major challenges in our day? Can we seize the opportunities to develop a better social life and to foster human flourishing? What is the new impact of technology on social life or on lives of human beings in general? What is the purpose of science and technology in human life? What can we do in order to direct science and technology toward the good of all? Have we developed much broader perspectives about the human civilization? What are the new understandings about human nature? How do we elaborate human nature according to our new situations and conditions? What are the cause for current crises in the world? What are proper attitudes and ways to treat them? How to balance different interests among different peoples, cultures and civilizations? What did “value” mean in the past; what does it mean today? Is it possible to recover and discover the true meaning of social life in this new era? How to choose a valuable and meaningful life in our contemporary world?



A Group Photo

He Xirong chaired the opening session when **Huang Kaifeng**, Deputy Director of the Institute and **Vincent Shen**, Vice President of the RVP, gave opening remarks. The Institute and the RVP have cooperated since early 1990s initiated by **George F. McLean**, past President of the RVP and **Wang Miaoyang**, former Director of the Institute.

There were six parallel sessions. **Cheng Sumei**, Deputy Director of the Institute, chaired the first session "Learning to Be Human and Intercultural Dialogue." Following participants presented their papers: **William A. Barbieri Jr** (The Catholic University of America, USA) "Human Dignity and Intercultural Dialogue: Problems and Prospects"; **P.K. Pokker** (University of Calicut, India) "Future World for All Communities: A Philosophical Approach towards Pluralism and Humanism"; **Bo R. Meinertsen (Ma Bo)** (Tongji University, Shanghai, China) "Values to Live by in a Globalized World"; and **AsokanMundon** (University of Calicut, India.) "Accomplishing a Multicultural Society : Engaging Experience in India."



A Conference Session

Vincent Shen chaired the second session "Understanding of Human Self: Past and Present." Speakers included: **Douglas S. Crow** (RVP, Washington DC, USA) "Modernity and Self: the New and Old"; **Ji Haiqing** (Institute of Philosophy, SASS) "Human Enhancement Ethics and Naturalistic Fallacy"; **Michael Zichy** (University of Salzburg) "A Concept of Images of Humans"; and **Yasien Mohamed** (University of the Western Cape, South Africa) "Relearning to be Human through Love and Friendship: The Contribution of Three Ancient Traditions." **Ji Haiqing** chaired the third session "Philosophical Reflections in the Chinese Tradition." **Vincent Shen** spoke on "Learning for Self and Learning for Others: A Postmodern Reflection"; and **Bao Wenxin** and **Zhang Jinzhi** (both

from the Institute of Philosophy, SASS) on "The Transcendent Sphere and Revolutionary Morality: A Problem of Fung Yu Lan's Theory of Sphere"; and "A Turning of Teaching on Gongfu in



A Conference Session

the late Ming Dynasty." The fourth session "Self-awareness in Buddhism and Islam" was chaired by **He Xirong**. Such speakers presented their papers: **Asna Husin** (Ar-Raniry State Islamic University, Indonesia) "Recovering Essential Human Identity: A Southeast Asian Muslim Perspective"; **Shen Haiyan & Brikha H.S. Nasoraia**

(Shanghai University & The University of Sydney) "The Value of Faith in Mandaism and Chan Buddhism"; and **Hammet Arslan** (Dokuz Eylul University, Turkey) "The Importance of Vipassana Meditation to Improve Self-awareness in Theravada Buddhist Tradition."



Both fifth and sixth sessions were on "Philosophical Traditions in the West." **Hu Yeping** chaired the session. Speakers included: **Chen Changshen** and **Yan Jing** (both from the Institute of Philosophy, SASS) "Wittgenstein on Taste and Genius"; **Yan Jing** "Manuel Castells's Identity Theory"; **Li Qin** (Institute of Philosophy, TASS) "Beyond Individualism and Collectivism"; and **Dan Chițoiu** (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania) "Reality, Life, and the Limits of Objective Knowledge"; **John Farina** (George Mason University, USA) "The Adam Smith Problem for Today" and **Yair Schlein** (The Open University Israel) "Aristotle's Ideal Regime as a Prototype for Modern Schools."

He Xirong and **Hu Yeping** concluded the conference expressing the willingness of the continued cooperation between the Institute and the RVP. After the conference some participants visited a few historical sites and museums nearby and in Shanghai city.



At Songjiang Puppet Show

The Full text of RVP publications are available for free download on the web

In order to share the work of the many teams and build a truly global network, the **full texts** of all RVP books and their individual chapters are available not only in print, but also for free download on the RVP web: www.crvp.org. Please see the "**Publications**" section of that website.

Yangzhou, China

July 12-13, 2017: **“Re-Learning to be Human for Global Times: Human Community and Dialogue of Multiple Civilizations.”** This conference was held at Yangzhou University and planned and coordinated by **Liu Yong**, Professor of School of Marxism, Yangzhou University. He spent one year as a visiting scholar in Washington DC and took part in the RVP annual seminar on “Justice and Responsibility: Cultural and Philosophical Considerations,” September and October, 2013.



Liu Yong



She Yuanfu



Yao Guanxin



Vincent Shen



Zhang Zhixiang

The purpose of the conference was to study the complex and complicated process of globalization which not only provides many opportunities but also challenges. With new situation, it has become a issue for many peoples and cultures, namely, how to carry on the abundant legacies and traditions from various human civilizations. Various regional experiences around the world provide us with different perspectives in thinking of this issue. Now we are all facing how to re-understand and re-construct a new world in relation to the destiny of human community. It is the historical and academic mission for scholars from all parts of the world to exchange and dialogue among cultures, peoples and civilizations in order to provide diverse historical and cultural experiences for contemporary global governance, and to move globalization towards the promotion of human well-being. In this process China has its great significance to build a better community for human destiny by contributing the Chinese culture, values and wisdom. Hence, the following questions were the major concern for the conference: The Destiny of Human Community and Pluralistic Development; Dialogue between Human Community and Civilization; Global Governance and Regional Experiences and The Change of the World and the Path of China.



She Yuanfu, Dean of School of Marxism, Yangzhou University, chaired the opening session. **Yao Guanxin**, General Secretary of the University and **Vincent Shen** gave opening remarks. **Hu Yeping** presented the RVP books to the University Library.

Hu Yeping chaired the first session with such speakers as **Vincent Shen** "Intercultural Philosophy and Chinese Philosophy"; **Yang Xiaofeng** (National Defence University of People's Liberation



A Conference Session

Army, China) "The Human Destiny Community: Connotation, Origin, Method and Value"; **Peter Jonkers** (Tilburg University, Netherlands) "Cultural Diversity, Value Conflicts, and Tolerance"; and **Ding Xiaoqiang** (Ding Xiaoqiang, Tongji University, China) "Chinese Road from the perspective of Multiple Civilizations collision." **Vincent Shen** chaired the second session. Speakers included: **Karim Crow** (RVP, Washington, USA) "Relearning Islamic Principles of Diversity and Pluralism: An Indonesian Experience"; Wang Shaoxing (Shandong University, China) "Scientific Connotation and Value Orientation of Chinese Road"; and **John Farina** (Mason University, USA) "What Are the Ethical Bases of Capitalism?." **Zhang Zhixiong** chaired the third session. Some participants presented their papers: **William Barbieri** (Catholic University of America, USA) "Human Dignity and Intercultural Dialogue: Problems and Prospects"; **Wang Zhi** (Wuhan University of Technology, China) "Methodology of Chinese Approach"; **Mihai Dan Chitoiu** (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Romania) "Restoration of Man and World through Compassion: A Cultural Perspective"; and **Gao Xuhong** (Northwestern Polytechnical University, USA) "American Scholars' Cognition of Chinese Way from the Perspective of Intercultural Culture."



A Conference Session

There were a few parallel sessions for the Chinese speakers. One session was chaired by **Jun Hongfei** when such participants spoke as **Pang Junlai** (Southeast University) "Freedom, Love and Justice: Value Consciousness of Contemporary Chinese Civilization"; **Chen Xiaoyan** (Hainan Normal University, China) "From "Natural Ecology" to "Spiritual Ecology"; along with a number of younger Chinese scholars from different Universities: **Wang Zhiqiang** (University of Sanya) **Li Xiumin** (Shanghai university of International Business and Economics) **Liu Guirong** (Anhui Normal University); **Li Wuzhuang** (Xi'an Polytechnic University); **Hong Li** (Shanghai Customs College); **Sun Bangjin** (Wenzhou University); **He Xinchun** (Jiujiang University); **Yang Zhiyong** (Shangrao Normal University); **Peng Yanhong** (Wuhan Institute of Technology); **Li Ling** (Hainan Normal University) and **Wang Guolong** (Shangdong University).

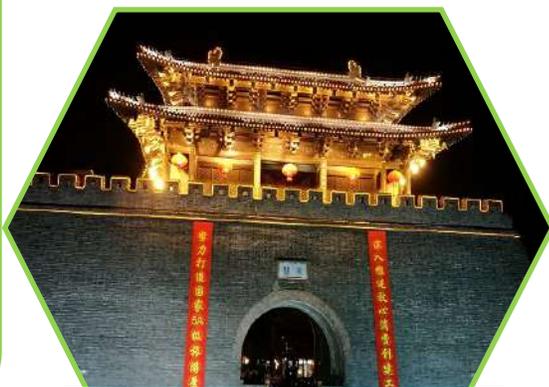


A Conference Session

Wang Jianhua chaired another session. The speakers were all Chinese: **Zhao Qingsi** (East China University of Political Science and Law) "Global Governance from the perspective of Marx's World History Theory: Symptoms and Prospects"; **Xu Guoming** (East China University of Science and Technology) "Marx's Thought of Community and Its Contemporary Value"; **Hu Xuming** (Shanghai University of Science and Technology) "The Philosophical Basis of Human Destiny Community and Its World Significance"; **Li Baogeng** (Ningbo university) "Human Destiny Community from the Perspective of Global Governance"; **Xu Zhijian** (Changshu Institute of Technology) "The Logical Premise of the Construction of Human Destiny Community"; **Zhang Zhidan** (Nanjing Normal University) "Criticism and Reconstruction: the Ideological Evolution of Fulfilling Ideological Function in China." **Zhang Zhidan** also chaired a parallel session. Chinese presenters included: **Wang Jianhua** (Nanjing University) "Reflections on Constructing Consensus Discourse Platform for Political Research"; **Sun Jian** (East China Normal University) "The Value Orientation of the Construction of



A Conference Session



Ancient Gate

Chinese Way and Multi-Community of Shared Interest”; **Li Li** (Jiangsu University) “Model of Ecological Civilization Development: Theory, Method and Principle”; **Qiu Renfu** (Shanghai University) “To Consolidate the Value Foundation of Chinese Road”; **Chen Zhiqiang** (Shanghai Business School) “The World Value of Xi Jinping's New Thought about The Governance of China”; and **Kuai**



At A Tea House



A Lotus Pond

Zhengming (Wenzhou University) “Setting up Supervisory Committee: Reflection on the State Supervision System from the Perspective of Comprehensively Implementing the Rule of Law.”

Hu Lifa chaired the last session when the following Chinese speakers spoke: **Zheng Liming** (Hehai university) “The Historical Route and Future Imagination of Sino-British Dialogue on Civilization”; **Liu Yong** (Yangzhou University) “China Approach for Global Economic Governance”; **Shi Liqin** (Communication University of China) “On the Theoretical Dilemma and Breakthrough of the Chinese Honest Government Culture”; **Lu Chuanbin** (Jinlin institute of technology) “On the Cultural Origin and Path Choice of Sinicization of Christianity”; **Wei Jianke** (Jiangxi University of Science and Technology) “The Logic of Chinese Road and "Return to China"; and **Xu Jianfei** (Yangzhou university) “Approach, Meaning and Value: the Three Dimensions of Understanding Chinese Approach .”

Liu Yong, **Xu Guoming** and **Hu Yeping** gave concluding remarks respectively. Yangzhou is an ancient city with many historical attractions. Foreign participants were also impressed by the charming structure of the city. They visited the Ancient Street, a Buddhist Temple, a Masque, a Church, a tea house, etc.



Ancient City



Buddhist Temple

Changsha, China

July 15-16, 2017: **“Re-Learning to be Human for Global Times: Cultural Development, Justice and Responsibility.”** The conference was planned by **Xiang Yuqiao**, Professor and Director of Center for Moral Culture Studies of Hunan Normal University, and coordinated by **Yu Lu**, Professor from the same Center. The goal of the conference was to examine many issues related to the impact of the process of globalization, the pluralistic society, dialogues and communications among different cultures and civilizations, cultural developments with diverse national differences, value changes, etc. In particular, the conference focused on the much eye-catching values, justice and responsibility.



Yu Lu



Xiang Yuqiao



Li Ming



Vincent Shen



Hu Yeping

Whether these basic values can or should be shared by different peoples and nations with different cultural backgrounds. Indeed, they are moral values for humankind to solve national and international issues not only in the past, but more so in this global age. These two important values should be reflected in relation to both national and international cultural developments. The following items were covered: 1. Cultural Spirit and Social Development; 2. Communication and Integration among Cultures; 3. Social Justice and Social Development; 4. Distributive Justice and Social Stability; 5. Justice and Social Responsibility; 6. Social Responsibility and Social Development; 7. International Justice and World Peace; and 8. Moral Culture, Conception of Justice and Responsibility.



A Group Photo

Xiang Yuqiao chaired the opening session. Li Ming, General Secretary of the University, and Vincent Shen spoke on behalf of the two institutions. Yang Xiaohua chaired the first session when the following scholars spoke: William Barbieri "The Bounds of Community: Responsibility Through the Lens of Constitutive Justice"; Gan Chaoping (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences)



A Conference Session

"Power, Justice and Social Stability"; Asna Husin "Indonesia's Blasphemy Law: Debates about Human Responsibility and Justice"; and Gao Zhaoming (Nanjing Normal University) "Benevolence and Justice: Understanding and Possibility." Hu Yeping chaired the second session. Such speakers spoke as Chen Zhen (Nanjing Normal University) "On Patriotism, Extremism and World Peace"; Peter Jonkers "Cultural Diversity, Value Conflicts, and Tolerance"; Xiang Yuqiao "The Power of Moral Memory"; and Vincent Shen "Justice, Love and Human Person: Ethical Foundation and Praxis in the Era of High Technology." Chen Zhen chaired the third session. The following participants presented their papers: John Farina "Justice and Responsibility in the New World"; Han Dongping (Huazhong University of Science and Technology) "On Justice"; Karim Crow "Cultural Diversity and Maturity: Re-imagining the Human"; Li Jialian (Hubei University) "On Francis Hutchison's Concept of Emotional Justice"; Yang Xiaohua (University of San Francisco, USA)



A Conference Session

“Stakeholder Salience, CSR Posture and Community Engagement in Chinese MNEs in Australia”; and **Wen Xianqing** (Hunan Normal University) “The Self-Formation of Practical Reason and Freedom.” **Vincent Shen** chaired the fourth session with those speakers: **Yi Xiaoming** (Hunan Normal University) “On Class Struggle”; **John T. Giordano** (ABAC University, Thailand) “On Wandering Scholars, and On the Justice and Responsibility in the New World Flows and Disruptions of Cultural Interaction: Reading Victor Segalen with Michel Serres”; and **Gong Tianping** (Zhongnan University of Economics and Law) “On Confidence of Moral Culture.” **William Barbieri** chaired the fifth session when the following presenters spoke: **Dan Chitoiu** “Reconsidering Hierarchy: The Role of Responsibility and Justice in Eastern European Societies”; and **Zhan Yingying** (South China Normal University) “Perennial Peace as the Political End.”

Xiang Yuqiao and **Hu Yeping** concluded the conference. Some of the participants visited Shaoshan city, Chair **Mao Zedong’s** hometown and the ancient Yuelu Academies located in Changsha.



Yuelu Academy



Chairman Mao’s Museum

RVP Past Council Members

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The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy
 Gibbons Hall B-20, 620 Michigan Avenue, North East
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Dushanbe, Tajikistan

July 24-25, 2017: **“Re-Learning to be Human for Global Times: Tradition and Change in the Contemporary World.”** This conference was planned and coordinated by **Pulat Shozimov**, Professor and Acting Director of Aga Khan Humanities Project, University of Central Asia. He was one of the RVP seminar participants along with 10 other Muslim scholars from different countries. The seminar entitled **“Faith and Reason in Our Day”** was held in Washington. D.C., March 2008.

The goal of the conference was to study the changes taken place in Central Asia. Indeed, recently Central Asia has undergone profound changes in all aspects, facing not only economic and social challenges, but especially transformations of its cultural traditions. With new changes the people in Central Asia are looking back to their past for inspirations and resources in order to draw upon the richness of their cultural system of values. Central and integration of many for instance, Buddhist, Ch-lamic, Jewish, Mongol, Rus-addition the impact of the shaping values and identied. Appreciation and un-depth of rich cultural her-



Pulat Shozimov



João J. Vila-Chã

traditions and to develop a new Asia is a region with interaction ethnic and cultural communities, nese, Greek, Indian, Iranian, Is-sian, Turkic and Zoroastrian. In more recent Soviet experience on ties should not be underestimat-derstanding of the breadth and itages of Central Asia enable its people to adjust to rapid changes and seize opportunities in these global times. It is important to build the community network across the region and to help the people in Central Asia to explore and carry on their own traditional values, to understand the diversity within each culture and the similarity among different cultures, and to promote communication, dialogue and cooperation among pluralistic peoples, cultures and civilization through exchanging ideas and insights and shar-ing common values. The conference was held at The Ismaili Center in Dushanbe with both Russian and English as working languages. **Pulat Shozimov** and **João J. Vila-Chã** gave opening remarks on behalf of the two Institutions followed by the keynote speech given by **João J. Vila-Chã** **“The Secularisation of Modernity: Approaching the Gaps of Religion and Meaning”**.

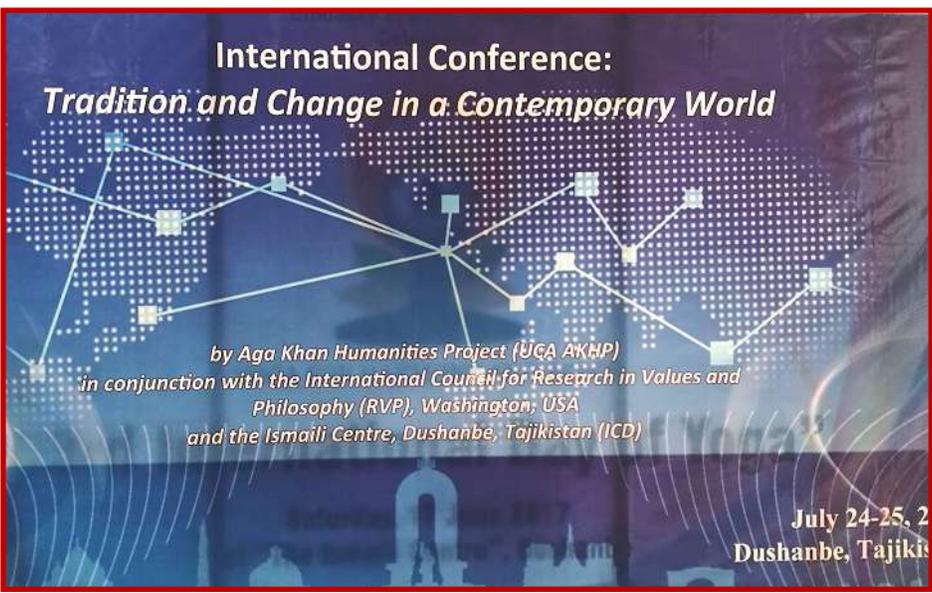
Mamadsho Ilolov, Ex- President of Tajikistan’s Academy of Sciences and Director of Center of Innovations and Technologies under Tajikistan’s Academy of Sciences, chaired the first session **“Phi-**



A Group Photo

osophy as Methodological Basis for Productive Dialogue between Tradition and Innovation: Theory and Practice” when the following speakers spoke: **Abdurahim Gavahi** (Head, Department of Future Studies, Iranian Academy of Sciences; President, World Religions Research Center, Tehran, Iran) “Foundations of Modernity and Change”; **Pulat Shozimov** “Structure of Conceptual Interaction between Unity, Distinction and Construct in Modern Central Asian Discourse: Theory and Social Practice”; **Juraev Abdurahim** (Vice Rector of International Affairs, Khujand State University of Business,

tics, Tajikistan) National Cullog”; **Obidkhon and Marifat** (Instructors of ties in English shanbe, Tajiki and Change via Methods: Cen- cational Experi- **Shokirjon Ma-** (Regional Train- Cross Debate



Law and Poli- “Global World: ture and Dia- **Kurbonkhonov Alifbekova** AKHP Humani- course in Du- stan) “Tradition AKHP Teaching tral Asian Edu- ence”; and **khamdov** er on AKHP Format, Tajiki-

stan) “AKHP Cross Debate Format in the Framework of the Tradition and Change in Central Asian Region: Student’s Perspectives.” **João J. Vila-Chã** chaired the second session “Tradition and Change in the Framework of Sciences: Challenges and Perspectives in a Modern World”. Those conference participants presented their papers: **Mamadsho Ilolov** “Systems of Singularities in the Context of Tradition and Change”; **Khikmat Mumimov** (Vice-President of Tajikistan’s Academy of Sciences and Ex- Director of the Institute of Physics and Technology of Tajikistan’s Academy of Sciences) “Tradition and Innovations in Modern Sciences: Beyond Standard Models”; **Gulchehra Kohirova** (Director of the Institute of Astrophysics, Tajikistan’s Academy of Sciences) “Astrophysical Studies in Tajikistan: from Traditional Approach over Modeling to Empirical Properties”; and **Erkin Dzhamanbaev** (Strategic Development Director at Megalab (KDLLTD), Kazakhstan, Co-Owner; General Director of the Centre of Training & Consulting, Kyrgyzstan, coowner; Professor of Medical Center “KAMEC”, Kyrgyzstan) “Medical Myths: Interdisciplinary Context.”



A Conference Session

Idiev Khairiddin (Rector of Institute of Arts, Tajikistan) chaired the third session “Tradition and Change in the Framework of Music: Between National Identity and Globalization.” Speakers included: **Mehrenegar Rostami** (Ph.D. Candidate, University of California at Los Angeles, Ethnomusicology, USA) “Navruz Electrified: Transformation of Taste and Tradition and Their Outcomes”; **Chorshanbe Ghoibnazarov** (Research Fellow, Cultural Heritage and Humanities Unit, Tajikistan and Ph.D. Candidate at Humboldt University Berlin, Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies, Germany) “A Musical Expression of Identities in Badakhshan, Tajikistan: Tradition, Continuity, and Change”; **Bahrinisso Kobilova** (Vice Director of the Institute of History and Ethnography of Tajikistan’s Academy of Sciences) “Pamir Musical Arts: from Sources to the Modernity”; and

Erbolat Mustafae
ev (Professor, Kazakh National Pedagogical University, Kazakhstan) “Kazakh Art of Dombra Kuy: Past, Present, and Future.” **Pulat Shozimov** chaired the fourth session “Philosophy, History, Literature and Language as



Tajik Traditional Music

Indicators of Evaluation of Character for Interaction between Tradition and Change: Interdisciplinary Context” when such speakers spoke: **Emma Sabzalieva** (Ph.D. candidate, Centre for the Study of Canadian and International Higher Education Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, Canada) “Connecting History with Contemporary Identity in Higher Education”; **Aleksandra Spector** (Professor, Russian-Tajik Slavonic University, Tajikistan) “Fiction in the Third Millennium: Search and Discovery”; **Zukhra Madamidzhanova** (Senior Specialist of the Institute of History and Ethnography of Tajikistan’s Academy of Sciences, Tajikistan) “Ethnographic studies in Tajikistan: Between History and Modernity”; **Kamol Abdullaev** (Professor, Russian-Tajik Slavonic University, Tajikistan) “Effect of the Emigration of the Early Soviet Period on the Physical and Natural Environment in Central Asia”; and **Larisa Dodkhudoeva** (Head, Department of Ethnography at the Institute of History and Ethnography of the Tajikistan’s Academy of Sciences, Tajikistan) “History and Construction of National Traditions: Tajikistan’s Case.”

Pulat Shozimov concluded the conference. Conference participants were invited to a traditional show and also had a city tour.



At the Lake



Avicenna Statue

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

July 27-28, 2017: **“Re-Learning to be Human for Global Times: Islamic Traditions and Developments in Central Asia.”** This conference was planned and coordinated by **Alieva Cholpon Erikovna**, Professor of Philosophy, International University of Kyrgyzstan. She is one of the RVP regional coordinators and took part in the RVP annual seminar “Building Community in a Mobil/Global World” held September-October, 2012.

The conference focused on the misuse of religion as a subtle psychological manipulation tool in the socio-political struggle for the world domination. The anti-human, misanthropic ideology of terrorism, based on principles of superiority over the other and violence against all humans, tries to destroy the spiritual foundation of human cultures and civilizations, which are rooted in religion as Samuel Huntington points out in his well-known book *Clashes of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*. One of the features of the post-Soviet states in Central Asia is the emergence of various religious activities among the population. It is a response to socio-economic, political and cultural challenges developed during the process of transition from totalitarianism to democracy. Increasing numbers of mosques have been built and Muslim adherents have increased in recent year. But traditional understanding and interpretation of Islam has not been adequately promoted in Central Asia. One of the main reasons for religious radicalization in contemporary times is precisely the move away from the spirit of traditional Islam, with the substitution of false and ignorant interpretation of religious doctrines and beliefs. These circumstances urge us to rethink how religion can play its important role in the development of democratic states in Central Asia, how a true Islamic education system can be developed with the authentic Islamic tradition of humanism and dialogue, and how scholars, thinkers and intellectuals should do in order to revive the true Islamic tradition connected with adequate Islamic philosophies, such as Nazzam, Al-Kindi, Averroes, Avicenna, Al-Farabi, Al-Razi, Zamakhshari, Ibn Miskavejh, Ibn Khaldun, Maarri, Suhrawardi, Omar Khayyam, Mevlana, etc. Some issues were



Alieva Cholpon Erikovna



João J. Vila-Chã



A Group Photo

concerned: 1. History of Islamic Philosophy in terms of Dialogical and Humanistic Paradigms; 2. Comparative Studies and Interreligious Dialogue; and 3. Development of Islam and Islamic Philosophy in Central Asia.

The conference was opened by **Muratbek Seytkazievich Baihodjoev**, Vice President for Science and Development of the International University of Kyrgyzstan; **João J. Vila-Chã**; and **Ali Hakimpur**, Head of the Cultural Representation at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Kyrgyz Republic, Doctor of Laws.



A Conference Session

The first session was chaired by **Alieva Cholpon Erikovna**. The following speakers presented their papers: **Asan Sulaymanovich Ormushev** (Professor and Doctor of Historical Sciences, Kyrgyzstan) "Features of the Religious Situation in the States of Central Asia"; **Ali Hakimpur** (Doctor of Laws and Head of the Cultural Representation at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Kyrgyz Republic) "Moderate Islam in Countering Extremism"; **Adash Iskenderovna Toktosunova** (Professor and Doctor of Political Sciences, Kyrgyzstan) "Dialogue of Cultures and Religions: The Way of Interaction of Civilizations"; **Bogdana Todorova** (Doctor of Philosophical Sciences and Associate Professor, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and Head of Department of Social Theories, Strategies and Prognoses, Sofia, Bulgaria) "Islamic Traditions (Sufism) in Central Asia." **Ainura Bekkulovna Elebaeva** (Doctor of the Philosophical Sciences and Professor of Department of Philosophy, International University of Kyrgyzstan) chaired the second session when those speakers spoke: **Akbar Valadbigi** (Professor of Sociology, Elmi-Karbordi University, Member of International Sociology Association, Member of European Sociological Association, Sanandaj, Iran) "Challenges and Potentials of Ethnic Identity in the Process of Globalization"; **Kishimzhan Eshenkulova** (Doctor of Philosophy, Kyrgyzstan Turkey "Manas" University, Department of Philosophy, Kyrgyz-

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A Conference Session

“Islam in Kyrgyzstan: between Tradition and Modernity”; **Ainura Bekkulovna Elebaeva** (Doctor of the Philosophical Sciences and Professor, Department of Philosophy, International University of Kyrgyzstan) “Factors for the Growth of Religious Consciousness in Kyrgyzstan.” **Kishimzhan Eshenkulova** (Doctor of Philosophy, Kyrgyzstan-Turkey “Manas” University, Department of Philosophy, Kyrgyzstan) chaired third session. The following participants presented their papers: **Mohsen Habibi** (Doctor of Philosophy and Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Allameh Tabataba’i University, Iran) “Development of Islamic Wisdom is the Solution to Ending the Violence in the Contemporary World”; **Saeed Anvaari**



Giving Conference Certificate

(Doctor of Philosophy and Associate Professor in Islamic Philosophy, Allameh Tabataba’i University, Iran) “Eternal Nature of Wisdom from the Viewpoint of Suhrawardi: A Basis for the Unity of Cultures and Religions”; **Muhammad Shaukat Hayat Khan** (Master of Political Science and Doctorate in Philosophy of the International University of Kyrgyzstan) “Dr. Muhammad Iqbal and His Efforts to Re-unite Muslim World.” **Bogdana Todorova** chaired the fourth session when those participants spoke: **Zhyldyz Karybaevna Urmanbetova** (Doctor of the Philosophical Sciences, Head of the Sociology Department, and Coordinator of Social Sciences, Kyrgyz-Turkish University “Manas”, Kyrgyzstan) “The Nomadic Culture as an Archetype of Central Asian Culture”; **Gaziz T. Telebaev** (Doctor of Philosophical Sciences and Professor, The Library of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan: Leader of the Nation Kazakhstan) “The Turkic Elements in the Sufi Philosophical Tradition: Khoja Akhmet Yassawi”; **Jamgyrbek Bokoshovich Bokoshov** (Doctor of the Philosophical Sciences and Professor, Head of the Department of Philosophy, Kyrgyzstan-Turkey «Manas» University, Kyrgyzstan) “About Kyrgyz Sufism”; **Amantur Arsenovich Aidaraliev** (High School of

Doctoral Studies, International University of Kyrgyzstan) “Muftiyats as a Support of State Policy in the Field of Religion”; **Elmira Satyvaldieva Toktosunova** (Candidate of Political Science, Kyrgyzstan) “Extremism in the Information Space: On the Example of Kyrgyzstan”; **Gulmiza Askarbekovna Seitalieva** (Candidate of Philosophical Sciences and Docent, Department of Philosophy, International University of Kyrgyzstan) “Reflections on Secularism and Religion. The Future of Kyrgyzstan”; and **Cholpon Erikovna Alieva** concluded the conference with her presentation “Philosophy of the Dialogue of Chingiz Aitmatov and the Perspective of Kyrgyzstan in the Global World.”



A Conference Session

CONFERENCES IN EUROPE

Vienna, Austria

April 7-8, 2017: "Re-Learning to be Human for Global Times: Challenges and Opportunities from the Perspective of Contemporary Philosophy of Religion." This conference was planned and organized by **Brigitte Buchhammer**, who took part in the RVP seminar twice in August-September, 2016: "The Role and Structure of Mercy and Compassion" and in August-September, 2014: "Religion: Key to Understanding Violence and Promoting Peace in Global Times." **Herta Nagl-Docekal**, Professor and Doctorate from University of Vienna, supported and helped planning.



Herta Nagl-Docekal



Brigitte Buchhammer

The theme of the conference reflected the current challenges in this complex, globalized and pluralistic world. Speakers from five countries in Europe addressed issues related to the increasing loss of solidarity and violent conflicts among cultures and religions, the societal impact of recent research in sciences (such as neuro-sciences and techno-sciences), and the dynamic changes in the socio-economic sphere. In view of these fundamental challenges, conference participants explored new philosophical approaches to the

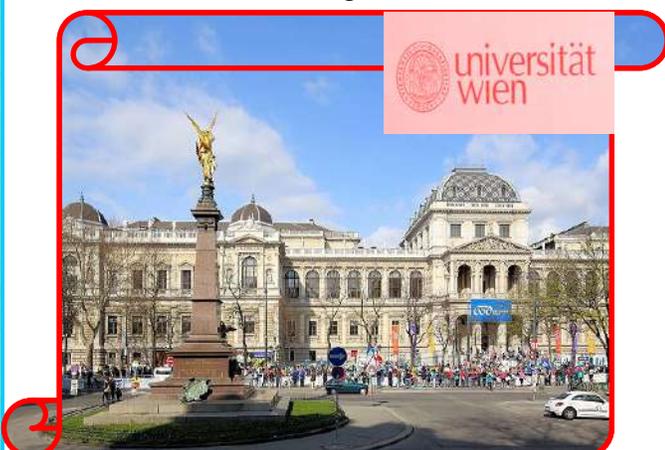
human being and its self-understanding. The scope of topics included suggestions to re-define the relation between human beings and extra-human nature, as well as theories focusing on the situation of religion in the context of modernity.



The conference was held at University of Vienna. **Brigitte Buchhammer** gave a welcome address and introduced the conference theme. **Ludwig Nagl** (University of Vienna) chaired the first session. Such scholars spoke: **Kurt Appel** (University of Vienna) "The Humanistic Potential of Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit"; **Thomas M. Schmidt** (Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany) "The Search for Lost Intimacy. Georges Bataille on Religion as Immanent Human Experience"; **Angela Kallhoff** (University of Vienna) "Rescue Cases and Environmental Duties in the Climate Crisis." **Claudia Melica** (Sapienza University Rome 'Menschlichkeit', Italy) chaired the second session when the following speakers spoke: **Birgit Heller** (University of Vienna) "To Whom It May Concern. Humanity and Dignity in Interreligious Perspective"; **Maureen Junker-Kenny** (Trinity College Dublin, Ireland) "Re-learning to be Human: Translations Between Religions and Cultures as Case Studies of Mutual Learning"; **Sandra Lehmann** (University of Vienna) "Messianic Cessation and the Praxis of the Neighbor." **Herta Nagl-Docekal** chaired the third session. Those participants presented their papers: **Stephan Steiner** (Katholische Akademie Berlin, Germany) "Emersonian Anxieties. The Age of Anthropocene and the Legacy of Humanism"; **Cornelia Esianu** (Alexandru-Ioan-Cuza-University of Iași, Romania) "The Conception of Love in Immanuel Kant and Friedrich Schlegel: Its Relevance for a Comprehensive Theory of the Human Being"; **Brigitte Buchhammer** (University of Vienna) "Philosophy as an Advocate of the Whole Humanity: Moral Enhancement Theories: A Current Philosophical Problem." **Thomas M. Schmidt** chaired the fourth session when the following scholars spoke: **Ludwig Nagl** "What is it to be a Human Being? Charles Taylor on 'the Full Shape of the Human Linguistic Capacity'"; **Carlo Willmann** (Alanus University of Arts and Social Sciences, Vienna) "Empathy, Attention, Responsibility. Milestones to Humanity by Edith Stein, Simone Weil and Dag Hammarskjöld and their Relevance in the World of Today"; **Rita Perintfalvi** (Ökumenischer Verband der Theologinnen Ungarns, Hungary) "(Re)-Learning to be Human in Central and Eastern Europe: If Political Authoritarianism is Flirting with Religious Fundamentalism." **Maureen Junker-Kenny** chaired the fifth session. Such scholars presented their papers: **Herta Nagl-Docekal** "Educating Humanity. A Core Concern of Kant's Philosophy of History"; **Leonhard Weiss** (Alanus University of Arts and Social Sciences, Vienna) "The Human Being – A Beginner: The Anthropological Foundations and Current Relevance of Hannah Arendt's Understanding of Childhood and Education"; **Claudia Melica** "Lessing's Ideal Model for



A Conference Session



Culture, Religion and Ethics Today." **Cornelia Esianu** chaired the last session when the following speakers spoke: **Isabella Guanzini** (University of Graz) "Humanisation and Desire. The Symbolic Dimensions in the Thinking of Jacques Lacan"; **Elisabeth Menschl** (Johannes Kepler-University, Linz) "Occam's Razor: Simplicity Versus Simplification or How to Deal with the Complex Images of Humanity"; and **Sibylle Trawöger** (Katholische Privatuniversität, Linz) "Learning to be Human in the Silence."

Iasi, Romania

October 27-28, 2017: **“Re-Learning to be Human for Global Times: How Intercultural Encounters (Re)Shape the Contemporary World.”** This conference was planned and organized by **Dan Chițoiu**, Professor and Director of the RVP Center at Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, and coordinated by **Oana Cogeanu** from the same University.



The purpose of the conference was to study the issue related to intercultural encounters in this global era. Indeed, in the past encounters between cultures took place through long-distance human mobility or the wide circulation of artefacts. They involved the displacement of individuals or objects and some degree of preparedness. Globalization, however, has transformed intercultural encounters. People are able to come together in new work contexts and social environments, intercultural encounters are no longer a distant option, but an everyday fact. On the one hand, intercultural encounters reflect the contemporary developments in terms of globalization and virtualization. On the other hand, they can cause and accelerate many world changes. As encounters with people of different backgrounds and values tend to be more fortuitous, immediate and direct, preparedness decreases and intercultural interactions appear to become more challenging. However, such interactions may also generate a new awareness of the other and of the self and an enhanced understanding of what it means to be human. The following issues were discussed during the conference: How do globalization and virtualization change the form and substance of intercultural encounters?



Wilhelm Danca



Confiu Tiberiu Șoiftu



Dan Chițoiu



Oana Cogeanu

What are strategies for understanding intercultural encounters in the contemporary world? Are there new types of dialogue and knowledge emerging from contemporary intercultural encounters?

What are the kinds of impact that intercultural encounters have on spiritual practices? What are the effects of contemporary intercultural encounters? Do they change our views of culture? Do they affect our understanding of humanity? Do they produce new, shared values?



A Group Photo

At the opening **Teodor Dima** (Member of the Romanian Academy, Director of the "Gheorghe Zane" Institute of Economic and Social Research of Romanian Academy, Romania); **Contiu Tiberiu Şoitu** (Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Political Sciences, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iaşi); **Vincent Shen** gave remarks and **Wilhelm Dancă** (Member of the Romanian Academy and University of Bucharest, Romania and Regional Coordinator of the RVP) spoke on "Person First. For the Dignity of the Human Being."

The following participants presented their papers during the conference: **John Ozolins** (Australian Catholic University) "Identity, Diversity and the Modern World"; **Thomas Menampampil** (Jovai, India) "Becoming Human and Humane. Developing a Global Vision to Address Local Needs and Anxieties"; **Osman Bilen** (Dokuz Eylül University, Turkey) "Beauty Torn by Thorn's Prick: Rumi's Philosophy of Human Love"; **Vincent Shen** "Becoming Human in a Globalizing Context of Interculturality"; and **Ernest Beyaraza** (Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Kenya) "How Intercultural Encounters (Re)Shape the Contemporary World: The African Experi-



A Conference Session

ence" (through skype); **Asha Mukherjee** (Visva-Bharati University, India) "Swedish-India Intercultural Encounter: Inge Jensen on Weaving Project at Visva-Bharati"; **Seema Bose** (University of Delhi, India) "Humanism Revisited"; **Ana Bazac** (Polytechnic University of Bucharest, Romania) "Science and Technology as Intercultural Encounter"; **Suleiman Ahmed Mohamed** (Beny Suef University, Egypt and University of Pavia, Italy) "Intercultural Encounter in the Coptic Theology.



Workshop

Soteriological Theology versus Heresy”; **Tony Svetelj** (Hellenic College, USA) “Philosophy of Interculturality – Rediscovery of Human”; **Monica Meruțiu** (Babes-Bolyai University, Romania) “Religion and Migration in the 21st Century. The Vatican and the Diplomacy of Conscience.” Some scholars from Romanian Academy, Iași Branch, also spoke: **Ioana Baskerville** “The Good Stranger in Romanian Folk Culture and in Present Time”; **Dan Gabriel Sîmbotin** “The Epistemic Foundations of Communicating with the Other.”

Those from Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași presented their papers: **Carmen Cozma** “Human Being as a Moral Culture Consumer”; **Florina Hariga** “Meeting a Stranger, Becoming a Friend: An Anthropological View of the Cultural Process of Friendship”; **Anton Adamuț** “On the Domestic Space for Greeks”; **Dan Chițoiu** “Faces and Surfaces: A Phenomenology of Today’s Intercultural Encounters”; **Oana Cogeanu** “(Re)shaping Travel Encounters”; **Alexandru Tofan** “André Scrima and the Ecumenical Encounter. A Spiritual Interpretation”; **Camelia Grădinaru** “Nostalgic Impromptu: Online Immigrant Stories and Cultural Differences Iulian”; **Gabriel Hrușcă** “Romanization and Romanity in Dacia. Some Controversial Encounters”; **Cezara Humă** “Intercultural Analysis beyond Nostalgia: Phantasies of the Origin in Novalis Heinrich von Ofterdingen”; **Melentina Toma** “Role of Logic in Developing Action Rationality”; **Ana Hriscu** “Fashion: A Dialog for Intercultural Encounters and Shared Values Awareness”; **Corina Giurgea** “Understanding New Challenges of ‘A Smart World’ through, Smart Applications, Smart Communication in a World without Mind”; **Eugenia Zaițev** “Intercultural Philosophy: (Non) History versus Globalization”; **Marius Ciuraru** “Monotheistic Hospitality as a Space of Spiritual Dialogue and Cultural Values.” There was also a workshop given by **John Ozolins** on “Erasmus Lecture: Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Their Beliefs and Values.”



A Conference Session

Moscow, Russia

December 19-21, 2017: **“Re-Learning to be Human for Global Times: Contemporary Tendencies of Studies in Philosophy of Religion: Hermeneutical Approach.”** This conference was planned and organized by **Ruzana Pskhu**, who took part in the RVP seminar twice in August-September, 2010: “The Role and Structure of Mercy and Compassion” and in October-November, 2010 “Human Nature: Stable and/or Changing” and coordinated a several conferences related to philosophy and religion in the contemporary world. **Nur Kirabaev**, Professor and Vice Rector of the Russian People’s Friendship University (PFUR), opened the conference.

Modern Western civilization finds itself in a deep spiritual crisis. This has affected the development of traditional religious institutions especially in the Western countries. This situation could be seen in various radical and even extremist religious trends in recent years as well as ultra-conservative trends within traditional religious institutions. These two trends are actually similar because both try to restrict the freedom of their believers and hence limit the personal contact with the Divine. Freedom and its growth are an integral part of a true religiosity, which helps promote, rather destruct, genuine personality of the human being. Research on this problematic is pertinent for today’s world, for it can be conducted and realized in a range of paradigms and various methods.

Specialists from various disciplines presented their research papers at the conferences on issues related to the following topics: philosophy and religion, religion and identity, dialogue between religions, the history of philosophy in the context of religious-philosophical investigations, the religious hermeneutics of Gerhard Oberhammer and the investigation of the philosophical traditions of India, traditional and contemporary investigations of Indian philosophy, etc.

The First session was dedicated to **Oberhammer’s** philosophy of hermeneutics. **Halina Marlewicz** (Uniwersytet Jagielloński, Poland) read his paper entitled “Meghanādārisūri’s Doctrine of the jīva as the Subject of Knowing” and also presented her own paper on “The Religious Hermeneutics of Gerhard Oberhammer and the Investigation of the Philosophical Traditions of India.” **Marcus**



Ruzana Pskhu & Nur Kirabaev



A Conference Session

Schmücker (The Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria) spoke on “Venkatanatha on the Concept of Individual soul,” as well as “On the Discussion of Time (kāla) in later Viśistādvaita Vedānta” in another session and **Ruzana Pskhu & Nadezhda Danilova** (Moscow State Linguistic University, Russia) on “Indological Works of Gerhard Oberhammer: Linguistic analysis.” Other sessions were on “Islam in the Modern World,” “Indian Philosophy in the History of the World Philosophy Context: The Translation Problem,” “Religion and Logic,” “Theological Problematics in the History of Philosophy,” and “Viśistādvaita and Contemporary Investigations of Indian Philosophy.”



A Conference Session

Scholars from the PFUR presented their papers: **Belov Vladimir** “Religion as Religiosity: Philosophy of Religion of Vosylius Sezemanas,” **Kryshtop Ludmila** “Ethical Doctrine of Kant: Rigorism or Theological Moralism?,” **Kosorukova Alexandra** “Reception of Nietzsche’s Idea of God in the Russian Philosophy (XIX-XX),” **Chistyakova Olga** “Dialogue of Religions in Postsecular Age: Anthropological Meaning of Islam and Christianity,” **Safina Natalya** “Modus Vivendi of a Vaishnava in Pancaratra Tradition,” **Vasily Petrov** “Decalogue and Feontic Logic,” **Tatyana Salnikova** “The Meta-Logic of Nikola Vasiliev as the Divine Logic of Inerrancy,” **Lochov Sergey** “Theology and the Problem of the Addictive Behavior,” **Maria Matyushova** “Religious Worldview of *Knut Hamsun*,” **Dmitriy Mamchenkov** “Human Freedom in the Context of Science and Religion,” **Safina Natalya** “Modus Vivendi of a Vaishnava in Pancaratra Tradition,” **Vasily Petrov** “Decalogue and Feontic Logic,” **Tatyana Salnikova** “The Meta-Logic of Nikola Vasiliev as the Divine Logic of Inerrancy,” **Petrov Vasily** “Decalogue and Deontic Logic,” **Anna Martseva** “Religious and Philosophical Interpretation of Human Being in Dostoevsky’s Works,” and **Dmitriy Mamchenkov** “Human Freedom in the Context of Science and Religion.”

Participants from other Universities in Russia also presented their papers: **Terentyev Andrey** (Saint Petersburg) “Hermeneutic Problem: The Tibetan



A Conference Session

Philosophy," **Abdolrahim Gavahi Avtadilyan Eygeniy** (Moscow State University) "Language and Sacral Text. Problems of Interpretation," **Rashkovsky Eugeni** (All-Russia State Library for Foreign Literature) "Revolution and Religions: Experience of Comparative Morphology," **Shiyan Anna**



A Conference Session

(Russian State University for the Humanities) "About Possibility of Phenomenology of Religion," **Nasyrov Ilshat** (Russian Academy of Social Sciences) "The Importance of Interreligious Dialogue: In the Context of Islamic Culture," **Korneeva Tatyana**

(Russian Academy of Social Sciences) "Becoming of Philosophical Terminology in the Persian Language," **Paribok Andrey** (University of Saint Petersburg) "God and karma as two rescues out of the tragic worldview impasse **Shiyan Taras** (Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration) "On the Alleged Incompatibility of Logic and Mysticism," **Kanaeva Natalya** (Higher School of Economics) "«Tattvopaplavasimha» of Jayarashi Bhatta as a Sample of Brahmanic Scepticism," **Desnitskaya Eugenia** (University of Saint Petersburg) "In Search for the Origins of Bhartohari's Perspectivism," **Skorokhodova Tatyana** (University of Penza) "Axial Age Heritage in Religious Philosophy and Culture of the Bengal Renaissance," **Maxim Demchenko** (Moscow State Linguistic University) "Elements of Viśistādvaita-Siddhānta in Tulsīdās' Writings and Their Repercussions in Later Rāmānandī Texts," **V.V. Gorbatov & Y.V. Gorbatova** (Higher School of Economics) "Logic, Metalogic and the Modal Ontological Argument," **O.I. Nevdobenko** (Bauman Moscow State Technical University) "The Principle of Falsification of Virtues in the Patristic Tradition," **I.G. Morozov** (Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow) "The Concept of 'Simple Theology' in Clive Staples Lewis Works," and **A.V. Loginov** (Russian State University for the Humanities) "Development of Human Rights Conception: Religious and Philosophical Aspect."



A Conference Session



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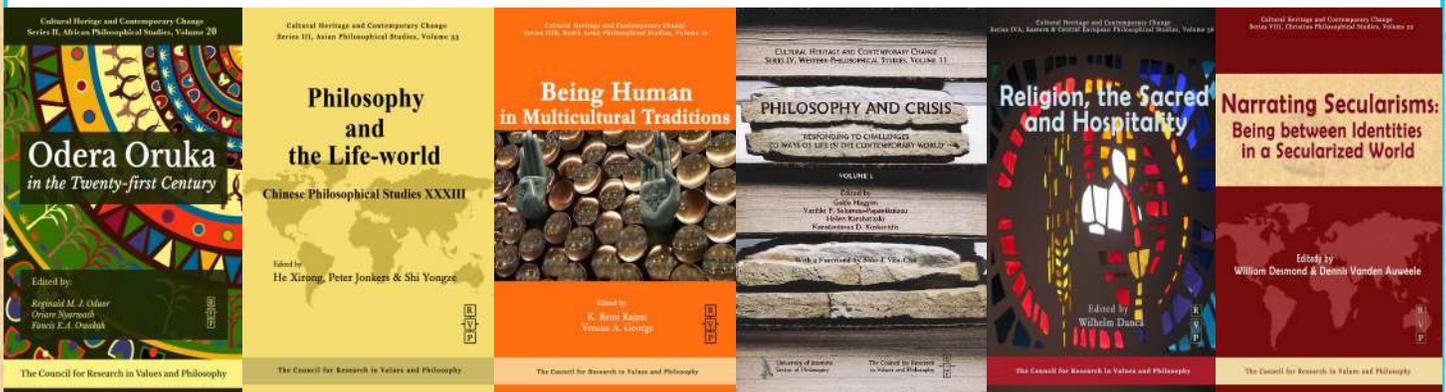
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To build cooperation among peoples by providing horizons that heal deep tensions and promote peace and friendship on a global scale.

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