

Erdélyi Múzeum 2016/4

Levente Papp

Purpose and Function in the Philosophy of Biology

Keywords: life, teleology, purpose, function, Darwinian revolution

In this study I want to take up the problem of teleology in the philosophy of biology focusing on the following question: After the Darwinian revolution, in what sense can we speak about purposes regarding the domain of biology? I think the success of Darwinian revolution made the intelligent design theory unnecessary, so we cannot invoke any purposes of some creator. Secondly, after Darwin, many biological explanations became reversed, because we found out that many organic capacities are not there for a purpose, or for the sake of some goal or end – example being survival or reproduction – but these are rather effects, not causes. Functions are being explained by the theory of natural selection as adaptations, consequences of blind variations and environmental filtrations. However, explaining functions in this sense does not imply that we have eliminated all talk of teleology, because we can still speak about real purposes at the level of whole organismic activities. First of all, this seems obvious in the case of humans. Secondly, we can also speak about the unreflective purpose driven activities in many other “higher forms of life”. Thirdly, where there is no sign of psychological capacities (in the case of relatively speaking simple forms of life) we can find the autopoietic organization of the living, which can be thought of as the birth of immanent purpose and can also be regarded as the origins of psychological purposive capacities later evolving in time.

Attila Kovács

One of the Lessons of Totalitarianism. Reflections upon the Dominance of Technology and Production in the Postmodern Age

Keywords: consumption, Ge-stell, modernity, work, postmodernity, techné, technology, production, totalitarianism, human needs

Technology and totalitarianism seem to be separate domains of our contemporary world. These two categories are, however, strongly related: totalitarianism, which pertains to the essence of modernity, also has a cultural connotation that associates it with the exclusive character of technological hegemony. Technological dominance can be viewed as a special configuration of totalitarianism, the understanding of which can take us a long way towards a deeper comprehension of technology.

Vince Mag

Spatial Modes of the State Borders Depending on the Cross-border Co-operations and Characteristics of the Geometrical Space

Keywords: state borders, spatial structure, border regions, cross-border co-operations

The state border was considered one of the most vulnerable spatial element in the history. Primarily is interpreted in socio-economic perspective which relates to the military, ecological and environmental aspects. The concept of the state border is multi-directional, because there exists political geographical, philosophical, and even mathematical interpretations however this term is used most often in public administration or politics. This paper discusses that we need to consider the eventuality of the borders and in this perspective the political forces are those that establish the boundaries, transform or abolish them. We also discuss issues which outlines the challenge of border regions. In the spatial investigations of the state border is not a coincidence that the spatial structure and regional structure also plays a role since almost half of the EU's territory are made up from border regions or regions affected by national frontiers.

Gizella Horváth

Dada Dead and Loving It

Keywords: Dada, avant-garde, disappointment with reason, nonspecific art, Tristan Tzara

The historical period of the avant-garde art movements coincided with two phenomena which can be interpreted as the failure of the rationalism characteristic for the modern, capitalist system. One of these is Taylorism, which dehumanized and robotized the person involved in the work process, and the other is the First World War. Several movements of the avant-garde related critically to reason and conscience (expressionism, surrealism), but the most radical was Dada. The manifestos and Dadaist activities reveal that the Dada wants to do away not only with the heritage of the past, but also with the linguistic and logical structures which form the texture of society. Bruitist poems, meaningless words and sentences, simultaneous poems, and the various uses of sound are all aimed at tearing apart language itself. The refusal of logic is most evident in the manifesto of Tristan Tzara, in which the series of mutually contradictory affirmations is concluded with an exceptionally clear statement: "I hate common sense". Logic, argumentation, and dialectics are all dismissed in the name of freedom and life, which are characterized by Tzara in the following way: "the interweaving of contraries and all contradictions, freaks and irrelevancies: LIFE". In my paper, I supplement the thesis of Peter Burger on the failure of the avant-garde (which is explained by him through its artistic success) by calling attention to the failure of its fight against reason, which is most evident in the search

for meaning as an essential part of artistic reception. Thus, Dada is only interesting as long as the meaningless phenomenon is associated with some kind of meaning during the artistic reception.

Csanád Száva

Dimensions of the Invisible

Keywords: fiction, invisible, visible, experience, life

We are tempted to think in terms of the identical about the things that we see. From a perspective that is specific to the way that we think in our everyday life, we think that what we saw was really that, with what we had that ordinary experience. Sometimes, however, we have extraordinary experiences thanks to the artistic works. Fiction creates a dimension that is situated outside of the sphere of ordinary experiences, and offers knowledge about the things that remain unseen for the eye of the everyday life. Fiction is capable of generating experiences that are of absolute novelty in this sense.

Károly Veress

Reality-Constructing Virtuality

Keywords: virtuality, reality, new media, mediation, information

New media creates a new experience of reality. The space and time of communication becomes an interactive medium for the construction of reality within the technological conditions of new media. Along with the restructuring of the relations between human existence and communication technologies, our former cultural experiences of the relationship between reality and virtuality are also transformed. From a dimension formerly associated with reality, virtuality becomes a reality-constructing factor. My study focuses upon the metaphysical and epistemological perspectives opened up by the experiences of virtuality, which are formed in the context of new media, by their existential aspects and cultural implications, related to the re-thinking of the relationship between reality and virtuality.

Alpár P. Gergely

Herbert Paul Grice on Meaning (Some Remarks)

Keywords: sentence, utterance, intention, meaning, implicature, cooperative principle, conversational maxims

In order to get a more complete idea of Herbert Paul Grice's theory of meaning, we have to go beyond his article entitled *Meaning*, and pay attention to the details he later added to his theory in his other texts. With the introduction of such concepts as the cooperative principle and the conversational maxims he outlined a more complex theory of meaning, which completes the formal theories of meaning. This paper is an outline of the modified Griceian theory of meaning.

András Áron Ivácson

The Registers of Our Voluntary Hardships

Keywords: asceticism, ancient Greece, Christianity, worldview, relation, saint, monk

Asceticism is an attitude towards the world that can be found all around the world in all historical epochs regardless of culture and religion. Present essay mainly deals with the ancient Greek and generally understood Christian form of asceticism, acknowledging fully that even in these two cultural spheres asceticism can take on a myriad of forms depending on the ascetic himself or the various ascetic communities in which we study it.

Adél Máté

A Human's Political and/or Individual Freedom

Keywords: positive liberty, negative liberty, democracy, person, group members

Throughout my research I would like to show Rousseau's idea about the ideal Democratic and citizen lifestyle and Benjamin Constant Rousseau's criticism, who showed us those problems which are about Rousseau's idea about the ideal Democratic and citizen lifestyle.

Éva Incze

Hermeneutical Concept of the Building

Keywords: hermeneutics, experience, architectural work of art

Gadamer's philosophy of art is based on the mode of existence of work of art, accordingly artwork is not an object, but also experience. The study is an attempt to apply this hermeneutical

interpretation of art to architectural creation, and outlines the experience like the mode of existence of architectural work.