



World Philosophy Day 20 November 2008

Activities taking place in the world¹

1. Benin

Société Béninoise de la Philosophie (So.Bé.Phie)

On the occasion of World Philosophy Day, *So.Bé.Phie* will organize a debate on “Freedom and Democracy in Africa in the context of globalization” and award prizes to the winners of a public essay contest on the topic “We prefer freedom in poverty rather than wealth in slavery”. The three best awarded texts will be published in the Society’s journal.

2. Brazil

UNESCO Office in Brasilia and Federal University of Rio de Janeiro

An exhibition of World Philosophy Day posters will be organized to celebrate the Day.

Philosophy and Social Sciences Institute (IFCS), Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ)

On 19 November 2008, the Institute will host a seminar on the topic of “Ethics and Nature, Philosophy and Education”. For further information please see www.diamundialdafilosofia.com.br

3. Bulgaria

University of Sofia

Activities will be organized at the University on 20 November 2008 to celebrate the Day.

4. Cambodia

The Cambodian Centre for Applied Philosophy and Ethics (CAMCAPE)

The CAMCAPE will organize a workshop on “What philosophy Can Do for You” followed by a philosophy essay contest on “Ethics and Social Development”.

Royal University of Phnom Penh

¹ According to information received from partners.

Activities will be organized at the University on 17 November for the Day's celebration.

5. Cameroon

UNESCO Office in Yaoundé

Activities will be organized to celebrate the Day.

6. Canada

UNESCO Chair in Studies of philosophic foundations of justice and democratic society, Philosophy Department, University of Quebec in Montreal (UQAM)

The Chair will organize on 21 November a round table on the topic "The stakes for peace and social justice", with the participation of Normand Beaudet, President of the Centre of Resources on Non-violence, who will speak on "Non-violent thought and social struggles in Quebec", and Martin Hébert, Professor at the Anthropology Department of Laval University, whose intervention will focus on "Ethics and politics of public consultations: between justice and social pedagogy".

Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto

Activities will be organized to celebrate the Day.

7. Colombia

Activities will be organized to celebrate the Day.

8. Croatia

Croatian Philosophical Society, Croatian Academy of Science and Arts, International Federation of Philosophical Societies (FISP) and American Philosophical Association

Several lectures, discussion groups, student workshops and a philosophy forum will be held in Zagreb, Zadar and Split from 17 to 21 November on the occasion of World Philosophy Day. The central theme of these activities will be "Philosophy, interdisciplinarity and heritage" and the subjects addressed will cover the interactions between philosophy and literature, gastronomy and contemporary cinema, as well as political philosophy.

An experimental project of using network technologies in philosophical communication will also be launched with the participation of experts from Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia and Croatia. In addition, a bilingual organization package will be distributed, including a CD-Rom with a retrospective of World Philosophy Day activities undertaken in Zadar in previous years and a booklet with advices in the organization of the Day's activities.

Finally, a questionnaire on the perception of philosophy will be sent to different partners.

For more information please visit: <http://personal.unizd.hr/~jciric/zfk> or please contact: dani_filozofije@yahoo.com.

9. Cuba

Cuban Society of Philosophical Research

World Philosophy Day will be celebrated in Cuba on 20 November with a special session organized on the occasion of the XI International Workshop on “A new political science” and of the 4th edition of the international event “The role of philosophy and social sciences at the immaterial heritage in the American Mediterranean countries”, taking place at University of Havana. These events have received the support of the School of Philosophy and History of the University of Havana, the Department of Social Sciences of the José Antonio Echevarría Higher Polytechnic Institute – CUJAE, the Felix Varela Institute, the Níco López School of the Cuban Communist Party and the Cuban Association of the United Nations. The principle philosophical questions that will be discussed in plenary sessions are: epistemology in the XXI century; bioethics and environmental ethics; the management of knowledge and perspective; the philosophy of language in the Caribbean; philosophical anthropology; the philosophy of technology; the current controversial issues in the philosophy of education; as well as pre-philosophy in America.

10. Democratic Republic of the Congo

Faculty of Philosophy of the Catholic University of Kinshasa

Activities will be organized to celebrate the Day.

11. Egypt

Egyptian Philosophical Society on Philosophy and Dialogue

World Philosophy Day 2008 will be celebrated by the Society with an event that will take place in Cairo on 23 November.

12. Estonia

Finnish and Estonian National Commissions for UNESCO

A joint event with Finnish and Estonian philosophers will be organized on the occasion of the Day, taking place on 20 November in Helsinki and on 21 November in Tallinn.

13. Finland

Finnish UNESCO ASPnet, AIIPh Baltic Sea Net, Finnish Association for Teachers of Philosophy and Philosophy of Life and Societas Philosophica Fennica

These institutions will organize together a philosophical essay event for secondary school students in countries around the Baltic Sea. The names of the awarded participants will be announced on 20 November and the best essays will be published on Internet on the address www.feto.fi.

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14. France

Cercle Philosophique Réunionnais, in partnership with Les Rencontres de Bellepierre; Université Solidaire de la Mutualité de La Réunion ; Les Amis de l'Université ; Les Amis du Monde Diplomatique ; Conseil Représentatif des Associations Noires (CRAN); Espace pour la Promotion de l'Interculturalité (EPI); Lofis la lang kréol; Association Culture et Tradition des Comores and Les Centres d'Entraînement aux Méthodes d'Éducation Active (CEMÉA)

Numerous activities taking place over 15 days will be organized to celebrate the Day in different places in the Reunion. On 19 November a meeting will take place on the topic "Lèsklavaz maronaz libèrté" at the Pierrefonds District House, as well as the screening of the film *Le Destin* » by Youssef Chahine. On 20 November will be organized a discussion on the film "Daratt" by Mahamat-Saleh Harou, as well as a debate on the topic "The factory of consent". On 22 November the City Hall of Saint-Denis will organize a conference-debate on the topic "Philosophy, what for?" and on 26 November a debate will take place on the question of "Averroes or the importance of a dialogue of cultures". A conference on the subject "Can philosophy contribute to resolve the current world crisis?" will take place on 28 November in Saint-Benoît as well as a debate on the teaching of philosophy in schools entitled "Teaching philosophy at school through youth albums", followed by the presentation of books offered by UNESCO, which will take place in the framework of the 3rd Youth Book Fair of the Indian Ocean. Finally, an open-air conference-debate will take place on 6 December on the topic "The philosophy of the Reunion slaves". This event is an occasion to make a link between the celebration of World Philosophy Day and that of the 160th anniversary of the abolition of slavery.

15. Germany

German section "Human rights and culture" of the UNESCO Chair in Philosophy

With the collaboration of the German Commission for UNESCO, the University of Bremen, the Institute of Intercultural and International Studies (InIIS), the Institute of Philosophy and the Centre of European Legal Policy (ZERP), the German section of the UNESCO Chair will organize a symposium during which will be discussed the issue "Thinking Human Rights in the Future. 60 Years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights". Each of the conferences given on this occasion will be followed by a debate. The event will take place on 28 and 29 November in Bremen.

German Commission for UNESCO

The German Commission for UNESCO agreed with the German Society of Philosophers (DGPhil), as well as with the German Association of Philosophy Teachers to jointly promote the Day by various means.

Sponsored by "Pro-arts and humanities", a joint project of the Fritz Thyssen-Foundation, the Volkswagen-Foundation and the Ebelin and Gerd Bucerius

ZEIT-Foundation, an international and interdisciplinary congress entitled “Why Philosophy” will take place from 24 to 26 November 2008 in Bonn University. The central theme is constructed around the question why human beings and especially human rights should be or are part of philosophical reflection. The aim of the conference is to initiate a methodically profound understanding of the reasons and objectives of philosophy.

University of Hagen

A full-day symposium will take place on 20 November 2008 at the University of Hagen, under the title “Philosophical aspects of globalization”. Lectures will be given by Professor Hajo Schmidt (“The political philosophy of Kant in view of globalization”), Professor Kurt Röttgers (“A philosophical concept of globalization”), Dr Elizabeth Weisser-Lohmann (“Globalization and justice”), Professor Hubertus Busche (“Does globalization destroy equal patterns of distribution?”), Dr Thomas Bedorf (“Identity and acknowledgement under conditions of globalization”), Ansgar Lyssy (“Enlightenment and globalization”), Dr Stefan Hebrüggen-Walter (“Natural right and globalization - on the legal status of indigenous populations”) and Professor Jan P. Beckmann (“Globalization and ethics”).

Melanchthonhaus

On 20 November 2008 in the Melanchthonhaus in Bretten, Mahdi Eshafan will give a conference on “Religion and dialogue of cultures”.

Mönchehaus Museum of Modern Arts

The Mönchehaus Museum of Modern Arts in Goslar organizes on 20 November 2008 a lecture by Dr Beatrice Nunold entitled “Freedom means to be in the know”, which will be followed by musical entertainment.

16. Greece

Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO

Under the auspices of the Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO, a symposium entitled “...Philosophy, philosophy are you there? Philosophizing with children”, will take place in Rhodes on 28 November. The aim of the event will be to tackle the issue of the role of philosophy and philosophy practices at school. Such personalities as Ann Sharp, Michel Sasseville, Daniel Camhy, Michel Tozzi, Claudine Lelleux, Marina Santy, Felix Moryon, Karin Muris, Gregory Maughn, have already expressed their interest to participate. The following themes have been selected for the debates: Philosophy-School; Philosophy Teaching/Philosophy Didactics; Presentation of Philosophical Practices; Philosophy in the National Educational Systems; Philosophy and Children; and Philosophy and Moral Education.

This symposium will also be a preparatory event for an International Congress on Philosophy and Education.

17. India

Activities will be organized in November 2009 in Auroville, Pondicherry.

18. Indonesia

Kanisius Publisher

Several events will be organized from 17 to 21 November to celebrate the Day in Indonesia, entitled: "Indonesian philosophy week: Superstition sets the whole world in flames; philosophy quenches them!" (Voltaire).

Among the events that will be organized on this occasion: the publication of a Kanisius Philosophy Book Review; a Festival of Book Review on Philosophy Books; a road show for junior high school students entitled "Philosophy Goes to School; a discussion on a philosophy book; a special discount for philosophy books during the Indonesian Philosophy Week 2008.

19. Italy

Centre for Philosophy Research and Didactics of the Province of Savona

The Center will organize a discussion dealing with sports as a vehicle of solidarity between peoples, with an accent on the Mediterranean. The aim of this event is to emphasize the links between philosophies from this region.

Classical Grammar School G. Chiabrera

The school will organize a discussion on 20 November. Its subject "Sports and ethics", will focus more specifically on the question of "profanation" of athletic performance when athletes have recourse not only to effort, physical energy and healthy competition, but to other, illicit, means that allow them to achieve results that would otherwise be unattainable.

'A healthy body, only relying on efficiency, cannot render the soul good, whereas, on the contrary, a healthy soul can help develop the body' (from Platon, *Republic*, III, 403 d). Are these words of the famous Greek philosopher still fitting in today's context? Does sport still make one better, and indeed should it make one better? The discussion will try to answer these questions.

20. Kenya

Department of Philosophy, Catholic University of Eastern Africa

World Philosophy Day will be celebrated with a non-academic talk for non-philosophers about what philosophy is and why it is important for everyone. This talk will be followed by informal discussion sessions on different areas of philosophy, namely African philosophy, moral philosophy, philosophy of religion, etc. Invitations to this event will be sent to all East African universities and the Kenyan public in general.

In addition, the Third Annual 2008 CUEA Philosophy Conference has been scheduled to coincide with World Philosophy Day, taking place on 20-22 November 2008 on the topic of philosophy of education. The purpose of this international academic conference is to raise the level of discussion on the philosophy of education in Africa and to interrogate the relevance of the educational system in this region with regard to the contemporary African situation.

21. Mauritius

On 20 November 2008 a thematic meeting will be organized on the topic “The human tomorrow”.

In addition, filmed interventions on the topic “The human being and its future” will be diffused on national television from 17 to 21 November, with the participation of experts in philosophy, economics, environment, history, sociology, bioethics, education, human rights, etc. The video recordings of these interventions will be available on the following Website: www.philoday.info.

22. Mexico

Department of Philosophy, University of Guadalajara

World Philosophy Day will be celebrated on 6 December 2008 on the occasion of the 4th International Banquet of Philosophy organized in the city of Guadalajara during the 2008 International Book Fair. This Banquet will be an occasion for dialogue between the philosophers from Mexico and Italy on the “New approaches of the hermeneutics”. Two round tables will be organized to this purpose, namely “Hermeneutics: a resource for the understanding of post-modernity” and “The new approaches of hermeneutics”.

23. Mongolia

Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, Institute of Philosophy, Sociology and Law of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, and School of Social Sciences of the National University of Mongolia

Four events will be organized in Mongolia to celebrate the Day. A Philosophy Olympiad on the interpretation of philosophical quotations will take place from 13 October to 20 November. Three participants will be rewarded on this occasion and the best text will be published in a newspaper. A second event will take place from 4 to 7 November, namely an open debate between students on a number of philosophical topics, such as moral duty, globalization and cultural identity, life and death, liberty, etc. The third activity will be a TV talk show with students and scientists organized on 10 November on the Mongolian National Educational Channel. Finally, a workshop will be held on 20 November.

24. Namibia

UNESCO Office in Windhoek

Activities will be organized to celebrate the Day on 16 October.

25. Nigeria

Centre for African Culture and Development (CEFACAD)

The CEFACAD will organize activities to celebrate the day in Nigeria.

Department of Philosophy, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka

The University will organize on 20 November 2008 a conference on the theme “Languages matter!”, referring to the proclamation by the UN General Assembly of 2008 an International Year of Languages. The sub-themes are: linguistic diversity and global understanding; linguistic diversity, cultural diversity and cultural identity; the question of endangered languages; UN official languages and Africa; nature, functions and problems of language; language and human personhood; language, power and human rights; language and social integration; language, thought and education; language and the goals of education for all (EFA); language development and world peace; language and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); globalization and multilingualism; Nigerian language policy; other language-related issues.

In addition, during the opening ceremony of this event will be presented the third volume of the publication series entitled “UNESCO World Philosophy Day @ UNIZIK Series”.

26. Peru

UNESCO Office in Lima and National University for Education Enrique Guzmán y Valle “La Cantuta”

The Day will be celebrated on 13 November, with a workshop on the theme: “The importance of philosophy in Peruvian education”.

27. Philippines

The Philosophical Association of Northern Luzon (PANL)

A number of member institutions of the Philosophical Association of Northern Luzon will be holding a series of symposia and conferences relative to this year's theme of the Day, namely “Rights and Power”. These are: Benguet State University, Divine Word College, University of Saint Louis, Philippine Military Academy, Saint Mary's University et Saint Louis University.

28. Serbia

Pozarevacka High School

Activities will be organized by the School to celebrate the Day.

29. Slovakia

Faculties of Philosophy of the University SS Cyril and Methodius and the Technical University

A symposium on the topic “Philosophy as an Inspiration – Philosophy as a Provocation” will take place on 20 November in Trnava.

30. Slovenia

Slovene National Commission for UNESCO

The National Commission organizes a round table on the topic “Philosophy – between justice and exclusiveness”, with the participation of renown philosophers, teachers and professors of philosophy. The Commission also coordinates the production of T-shirts with printed philosophy quotations,

which will be exhibited on the occasion of the round table. In addition, an Autumn Film School entitled “Film and Philosophy” is organized on the occasion of the Ljubljana Film Festival from 20 to 22 November, as well as a philosophy marathon on “What can we do with philosophy?” that will take place from 17 to 20 November at Ljubljana University. On 21 November the Rudolf Maister High School in Kamnik organizes a “Philoparty” celebrating World Philosophy Day and the “*sophia* lovers” of Maribor will organize different activities between 12 and 17 November. Finally, a scientific symposium on bioethics will be held on 4 December in organization by the Slovene Philosophy Association in Ljubljana.

On the occasion of the Day, the Slovene National Commission will also publish a brochure that will be distributed among numerous institutions in Slovenia, namely high schools that teach philosophy, faculties, libraries, etc. Information concerning these celebrations is available on the Website www.unesco.si.

31. Spain

Collaborative project between 16 Catalan secondary schools

An award ceremony of the “Mostra de Fotofilosofia” prize will be organized in Spain on the occasion of the World Philosophy Day. Each of the 16 participating secondary schools has created a blog with what is called a “philosophical photo”, i.e. a philosophical question illustrated with a photo. The best of them will be shown and commented at the ceremony taking place on 19 November at the Philosophy Faculty of Barcelona University.

32. Turkey

Philosophy Department, Bilkent University

The Day will be celebrated on 20 November at the Philosophy Department of Bilkent University, with a one-day workshop on the theme of human rights. The following topics will be addressed: “Construction of voice: models of engagement and multiculturalism in health care planning in Canada; “Distributive justice”; “Rule of law as a human right”; “Utility, rights and sensibility”; “Rights, right and righteousness” and “Why was England the first country to abolish slavery (1759) and the last to abolish serfdom (1935)?”.

A l’occasion de la Journée, une conférence aura lieu à l’Université sur le thème “Illusions, démonstrations et hypothèse de l’*Action Zombie* ».

33. United Kingdom

Queens University Belfast

In the framework of World Philosophy Day, Professor Christopher Mole will give a lecture on the topic “Illusions, Demonstratives and the ‘Zombie Action’ Hypothesis”.

34. United States of America

University of Texas

Activities will be organized to celebrate the Day.

St. John Fisher College, Rochester, NY

St. John Fisher College will celebrate the Day with a conference on “The Medium and the Message” taking place on 19 and 20 November. On 19 November a projection of a documentary film about Marshall McLuhan followed by a panel discussion will also be organized; whereas on 20 November there will be discussion sessions on such topics as “The Wilderness in Philosophy”, “Cosmetics and the Cosmos”, “Gendered Images in Sports Films” and “Plato and Neurobiology.” A philosophical “Jeopardy” game will also be played in the afternoon of 20 November. The Day’s activities will be concluded with a showing of the 1998 film *The Truman Show*.

35. Uruguay

Philosophical Association of Uruguay

The Day will be celebrated on 20 November under the title “Philosophy, human rights and power”. An essay contest on “Carlos Vaz Ferreira” will also be organized on this occasion.