

World Philosophy Day 19 November 2009

Activities in the world¹

1. Albania

State University of Tirana

To mark World Philosophy Day 2009, a discussion will be organized by the University on the topic “Child, childhood and philosophy: philosophizing in Albania’s kindergartens”.

2. Australia

Victorian Association for Philosophy in Schools, (VAPS) affiliate of the Federation of Australasian Philosophy in Schools Associations (FAPSA)

Activities will be organized to celebrate the Day.

State of Queensland

World Philosophy Day will also be celebrated in the state of Queensland with several events that will take place on 19 November.

The Buranda State School will organize several discussion sessions for teachers on the topics “Observing a classroom community of inquiry” and “Participating in an adult community of inquiry”.

The Brisbane State High School will organize a philosophical discussion for students.

Dr Julian Lamont, from the University of Queensland, will reflect on why it is essential for those with philosophical training, including scientists, to constantly scrutinize science so that it can serve its dual functions of serving society and seeking out scientific truth.

Finally, the Queensland Association for Philosophy in Schools will organize an event entitled “Food for Thought. A philosophical feast to celebrate UNESCO World Philosophy Day”.

3. Benin

Philosophical Society of Benin (So.Bé.Phie)

For the celebration of World Philosophy Day 2009, the Society will organize events on the topic “Diversity of Culture and/or Culture of Diversity” that will at the same time mark the 300th anniversary of King Akaba. These events are planned to take place in December 2009 at the *Cité Royale d’Abomey*.

4. Brazil

Activities will be organized to celebrate the Day.

5. Canada

Canadian Philosophical Association's Philosophy in the Schools Project

Activities will be organized to celebrate the Day.

¹ According to information received from partners.

UNESCO Chair in Philosophy, UQAM

For the celebration of World Philosophy Day, the UNESCO Chair in Philosophy and the Philosophy Department of the UQAM will organize a study day on 26 November on the topic “Which place for philosophy? The program of ethic and religious culture (ECR) one year later”. On this occasion, teachers from Cegeps and Universities will participate in three panels and one plenary round table, on the following topics: Panel 1: *Purposes and general orientations of the ECR program*; Panel 2: *Ethics in the ECR program*; Panel 3: *The training of teachers: what place for philosophy?*; and Round table: *The ECR program one year later: philosophy challenges*.

6. Côte d’Ivoire

Centre d’Etudes et de Recherches en Philosophie et Société (CERPHIS), Philosophy Department, University of Cocody-Abidjan

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

7. Croatia

Zadar Philosophy Cercle, Zadar Philosophical Society

The celebration of World Philosophy Day 2009 in Croatia will take place in the towns of Zadar, Zagreb, Split, Bjelovar and Krapina.

Several activities are organized, namely:

- a) A discussion and art exhibition, taking place on 13 November;
- b) A series of lectures by philosophy professors and students, on 19 and 20 November;
- c) Workshops on philosophical counseling, philosophy for children and psychotherapy, from 28 to 30 November 2009, with the participation of Isabelle Milon (France), Minke Tromp (Netherlands), Oscar Brenifier (France), Miloš Jeremić (Serbia), Bruno Ćurko, Ivana Kragić and Josip Ćirić (Croatia).

Activities in Zagreb will start with several lectures followed by the presentations of two publications, one of which gathers the proceedings of previous Philosophy Day activities since 2003, and the other being Oscar Brenifier's illustrated book on philosophy for children.

In Split, high school students will debate on the topic “The underrepresentation of women in philosophy”; and in Bjelovar and Krapina they will discuss “The power of language”.

In total, 35 hours of various activities will take place in Croatia for World Philosophy Day.

8. Democratic Republic of Congo

IPPF

This year, the IPPF will celebrate World Philosophy Day on the topic “The essence of the institutions of justice”. Since the subject chosen is related to the judiciary, the Day will be celebrated in collaboration with the local judiciary authorities, in particular the two Bars of the city of Kinshasa, as well as with the local institutions of philosophical education.

The main activity will consist of several conferences that will take place in the Philosophy Department of the Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences of the University of Kinshasa, with the participation of high-school students of Latin and Philosophy, as well as philosophers from the Marien Ngouabi University of Brazzaville in neighboring Republic of Congo.

9. Dominican Republic

Dominican Philosophical Association, Dominican National Commission to UNESCO, Philosophy Department of Santo Domingo Autonomous University, Philosophical Institute Pedro Francisco Bonó, State Secretariat of Education, State Secretariat of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Santo Tomás de Aquino Pontifical Seminar and Inter-American University

World Philosophy Day 2009 will be celebrated in the Dominican Republic with activities taking place from 13 to 21 November. Activities will consist of discussions and conferences on the following topics:

- a) “The importance of philosophy in secondary and higher education”, with the participation of Darío Genao, Miguel Pueriet, Eulogio Silverio, Pedro Abreu, Hidalgo Peña and Víctor Elena Minaya;
- b) “Philosophy, what for? Justifying philosophy in present times”, with the participation of Fidel Munnigh, Ramón Pérez, Domingo de los Santos and Luis Ulloa;
- c) “Current issues and validity of Latin American theology and philosophy”, with Eladio Díaz, Francisco Pérez and Miguel Pimentel;
- d) “Philosophy education: towards philosophical didactics”, with the participation of Julio Minaya, Leonardo Díaz and Daniel Vargas;
- e) “Philosophical thinking in the Dominican Republic: major challenges”, with the participation of Francisco Acosta, Pablo Mella and Roque Santos;
- f) “The Dominican government and the teaching of philosophy”, with Ana Rita Guzmán, Lorenzo Vargas and Francisco Acosta; and
- g) “Challenges of environmental ethics today”, with the participation of Enma Peña, Gisell Rubiera and Yidelca Rojas.

10. Finland

AIIPh Baltic Sea Net, Finnish UNESCO ASPnet (Associated School Project), Finnish Association for Teachers of Philosophy and Philosophy of Life and Societas Philosophica Fennica

The AIIPh Baltic Sea Net organizes, together with the Finnish UNESCO ASPnet (Associated School Project), the Finnish Association for Teachers of Philosophy and Philosophy of Life and Societas Philosophica Fennica, a philosophical essay competition for secondary school students in countries around the Baltic Sea. In Finland the essay event also functions as a selection for the Philosophy Olympiad in 2010.

11. France

Philosophical Circle of the Reunion

Numerous activities will be organized by the Circle in order to celebrate the Day, namely:

- 1) A public symposium entitled "Philosophizing in the Reunion, what stakes?" on 14 November 2009, with the participation of Laurent Médéa, President of the Circle, Brigitte Croisier, associate professor in philosophy, José Macarty, business manager, Charlotte Rabesahala, anthropologist, Antoine Pitchaya, formerly professor of Indian civilisation at the University of the Reunion; Geoffroy Géraud, political scientist and researcher at the Dauphine University in Paris, Arnaud Sabatier, associate professor in philosophy and coordinator of the *Rencontres de Bellepierre* and Radjah Véloupoulé, consultant.
- 2) A conference-debate on the topic "Injustice", taking place on 17 November at the Saint-Denis town hall with a lecture by Robert Lloancy, formerly philosophy professor.
- 3) A conference-debate on the question of philosophy for children at primary school level with the participation of two primary school teachers, Karine Bélon and Viviane Hoarau, taking place on 19 November 2009.
- 4) A "philosophical evening" consisting of the reading of philosophical texts, with the participation of Jean Lombard, Yves Lorvellec and Bernard Jolibert. The evening will be entitled "The philosophical intention" and will take place on 19 November.
- 5) The *Université Solidaire*, in partnership with *Les Amis du Monde Diplomatique*, will receive on 4 December Bernard Téper for a discussion on the theme "Living together and secularism".
- 6) Several cultural associations will organize conference-debates in the framework of World Philosophy Day on the topic "Communist philosophy in the Reunion", with a presentation by Lucien Biedinger, philosophy professor and secretary of the Circle, which will take place on 26 November and 9 December 2009.
- 7) Finally, a conference-debate will be organized by the Circle in partnership with the Commune of Sainte-Suzanne with the writer Daniel Honoré, on the topic "Philosophizing in the Reunion on the basis of Creole proverbs and sayings?". Annie Darencourt will read poems to illustrate these texts on 15 December.

12. Georgia

Institute of Philosophy and Social Sciences of Grigol Robakidze University

To celebrate World Philosophy Day, the Institute of Philosophy and Social Sciences of the Grigol Robakidze University will organize a scientific conference in Tbilisi entitled "Platonism, Aristotelism and Neoplatonism in the Medieval and New Era" taking place on 19 November 2009, with the participation of numerous university professors.

13. Germany

German section "Human rights and culture" of the UNESCO Chair in Philosophy at the university of Paris VIII

As every year, the German section of the UNESCO Chair will organize a symposium to celebrate World Philosophy Day. This year, discussions taking

place on 20 November will centre on the question “Morality and Law? Law or Morality?”, with the participation of professors Hans Jörg Sandkühler (Bremen), Dietmar von der Pfordten (Göttingen), Georg Mohr (Bremen), Dagmar Borchers (Bremen), Dr Sarhan Dhouib (Tunis / Bremen) and Professor Georg Lohmann (Magdeburg).

In addition, numerous activities will be coordinated by the German Commission for UNESCO to celebrate World Philosophy Day 2009.

14. Ghana

National Union of Ghana Students (NUGS)

Activities will be organized to celebrate the Day.

15. Guatemala

UNESCO Office in Guatemala City Office

For the celebration of the Day, the Office will organize the following activities, which will take place from 22 to 26 November 2009:

- a) A roundtable will take place at the auditorium of the San Carlos National University, under the chairmanship of the Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy;
- b) A 30-minute radio program will be broadcasted at the National Radio in the space dedicated to the UN agencies;
- c) The cultural supplement of 22 November 2009 of the newspaper *El Nuevo Diario* will be dedicated to philosophy;
- d) A conceptual note about Philosophy and Peace by Prof. Jesús Ruiz Garcia will be distributed throughout the Day.

16. India

UNESCO Office in New Delhi and National Commission of India for UNESCO

World Philosophy Day 2009 will be celebrated in India on 19 November, coinciding with celebrations of Indira Gandhi’s birthday, with the participation of both Indian and international philosophers. The Day will be an opportunity to reflect on the subject “The city in India”, which will consist of discussions about the appearance of cities in India, their development and their future.

17. Iran

Iranian Institute of Philosophy, Bu-Ali Sina University, Iranian Philosophical Society, Islamic Culture and Communications Organization and Iranian National Commission for UNESCO

On the occasion of World Philosophy Day, an international conference entitled “Islamic Philosophy and Challenges of Present-Day World” will be held in Tehran from 10 to 11 November 2009 and in Hamedan from 12 to 13 November 2009.

18. Ireland

National University of Ireland (NUI), Maynooth

To celebrate World Philosophy Day, NUI's Department of Philosophy will organize a seminar on 19 November 2009 on the topic "Tolerance as the Crucial Identity-Generating and Constituting Momentum in Heterogeneous Societies", with the intervention of Susan Gottloeber, and Dr Amos Edelheit, and chaired by Dr. Cyril McDonnell.

19. Italy

Centre of Research in Philosophy of the Province of Savona

For the celebration of the Day with a number of activities, the Centre has chosen the subject "Mind and body".

20. Kenya

Institute for African Ecology and Philosophy

The Institute for African Ecology and Philosophy will continue to celebrate World Philosophy Day with an event taking place on 19 November 2009. Round table discussions will be organized on the main theme of the event, namely "Peace, Justice and Education: Challenges for a Philosophical Dialogue", and more specifically on the following topics: "Philosophy and Environment"; "Philosophy and Eco – Ethics"; "Philosophy and the Youth"; "Philosophy and Cultural Diversity"; "Philosophy and the Feminist"; and "Philosophy as an Avenue for Peace".

21. Lebanon

Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO

On the occasion of the celebration of World Philosophy Day, the Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO will organize a conference on 19 November entitled "Critical thinking and public life". The event will consist of an opening session and of two panels on the following topics:

- a) "Between Doubt and Certainty: Theoretical Background", chaired by Dr Marlene Kanaan, and with the participation of Dr Waddah Nasr, Dr Souad Hakim and Dr Youssef Maalouf;
- b) "Critical Thinking in Application", chaired by Dr Saoud Mawla, and with the participation of Mr Jihad el-Zein, Dr Antoine Seif and Roger Assaf.

22. Morocco

Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences of Rabat and Moroccan National Commission for UNESCO

For the celebration of World Philosophy Day 2009, the research group "Philosophy at the service of Man", under the aegis of the Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences of Rabat, and in collaboration with the Moroccan National Commission for UNESCO, will organize a study day on 19 November 2009 on the topic "Philosophy and Education". The main objective of this meeting is to launch a debate on what can philosophy do in order to contribute to the improvement of the system of education in the Arab world in general and particularly in Morocco. Such a debate can show that philosophy can be seen as a methodological tool that can be used in all human intellectual activities,

and in particular in education. When it is well taught, philosophy contributes to the formation of good citizens who are able to think and communicate well and to participate effectively in the management of the city. This meeting will allow foremost to clear the grounds in order to show the importance of philosophy as a tool of education. The meeting will be structured around the following topics: Philosophy and education for citizenship; Philosophy and critical thinking; Philosophy for children; Philosophy and popular culture; Philosophy for dialogue; Philosophy and ideological violence; Philosophy and education for democracy. Participants will be Professors Mohammed Doukali, Nouredine Affaya, Abdessalam Ben Maissa and Professor Salem Yafout, from the University Mohammed V-Agdal, Rabat.

23. Namibia

UNESCO Office in Windhoek

Activities will be organized to celebrate the Day.

24. Nigeria

Nigerian National Commission for UNESCO

Activities will be organized to celebrate the Day.

25. Philippines

University of La Salette

Activities will be organized to celebrate the Day.

26. Portugal

Escola Secundária Artística António Arroio

Activities will be organized to celebrate the Day.

27. Serbia

Grammar School Pozarevac

A series of activities will be organized by the School to celebrate World Philosophy Day 2009. For more information, please see www.philosophywithchildren.org.

28. Slovenia

Slovene National Commission for UNESCO

In the framework of the World Philosophy Day 2009, several activities will be organized in Slovenia.

The central event will be a round table taking place at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Ljubljana, on the topic "Philosophy – what is its gender? ", in which will participate leading philosophers, teachers and professors of philosophy from different generations and fields of expertise.

The following other events will also be organized by the Faculty:

- a) A philosophical marathon on the topic »Gender and philosophy«, from 16 to 19 November 2009;
- b) A lecture on the topic »The woman does not exist«, on 16 November;

- c) A symposium on »Simone de Beauvoir between philosophy and literature« , taking place on 17 November 2009;
 - d) »Philoguerrillo – thinking T-shirts«: Production and distribution of T-shirts with popular philosophical quotations of famous philosophers that will take place on 17 November. The participants and lecturers of the different events will also carry some of these T-shirts. An exhibition of the T-shirts will also take place;
 - e) A round table on the topic »Bisexual partnerships and child adoption« , on 18 November; and
 - f) A philosophical symposium on bioethics on 3 December.
- Different activities will also be organized in Maribor from 19 to 20 November 2009 by »Zofijini ljubimci« (Association for the development of humanistics), including round tables and other events on different topics.

29. South Africa

Activities will be organized to celebrate the Day.

30. Spain

Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Barcelona

The Faculty will celebrate World Philosophy Day with the awarding of the prize of the *Mostra de Fotofilosofia 2009*, a collaborative project between more than 20 Catalan secondary schools. Each school has created a blog with what they call “Fotofilosophies” made by their students, consisting of a philosophical question illustrated by a photograph. The best “Fotophilosophies” will be shown and commented at a public philosophy event.

Moreover, a platform of 5 prestigious associations formed by professors, students and other friends of philosophy will celebrate the Day also in Barcelona with several exhibitions, theatre plays and conferences during the month of November 2009.

Finally, in Catalonia, several secondary schools will celebrate World Philosophy Day with a photography exhibition on philosophy.

31. Tanzania

University of Dar es Salaam

For the celebration of the Day, the University of Dar es Salaam will organise a conference, which will take place from 18 to 20 November 2009, on the theme “The Status of Philosophy in East Africa: Towards Critical Thinking, Professionalism and Democracy”. The conference, which will be attended by the Deputy Minister of Education of Tanzania, will be organized in collaboration with the Departments of Philosophy of the University of Nairobi (Kenya) and Makerere University (Uganda), the MoRes Academy of Finland – a research project of the Department of Social and Moral Philosophy, University of Helsinki, and the Dar es Salaam office of the Friedrich Ebert

Stiftung Foundation. Various issues matters will be discussed at the conference, including:

- Teaching philosophy: critical analysis, independent thinking and professionalism.
- Political philosophy and professional ethics; Good governance and social justice.
- The role of philosophy in the development of democracy and enlightened citizenry.
- Promotion and protection and of human rights.
- Philosophy in East Africa: both within as well as outside the academia.
- Teaching philosophy: internal and external challenges.
- Philosophy and the public: governmental and non-governmental organizations.

32. Tunisia

University of Tunis El-Manar

For the celebration of the Day, the University will organize a symposium on the concept of “Autonomy”, with the participation of both Tunisian and international philosophers. The event will take place from 19 to 22 November 2009.

The debates will centre on six major topics:

- a) “Sense and grounds of the autonomy”, chaired by Pierre Girard (ENS-LSH, Lyon) and Mohammed Mohsen Zerai (U. Gabès), and with the participation of Abdelaziz Ayadi (U. Sfax), Anne Sauvgnargues (ENS-LSH de Lyon), Béchir Tlili (U.de Tunis Manar), Jaleddine Said (U. Tunis), and Neji Ounelli (U. Sfax);
- b) “Spheres of the ethics and of the moral conscience”, chaired by Richard Conte (U. Paris I) and Neji Ounelli (U. Sfax), and with the participation of André Charrak (U. Paris I), Mohammed Ben Arous (U.de Tunis Manar), Hiroo Nakamura (Nagano N1 College of Technology, Japan), Jean Seindengart (U. Paris X), Mehrez Hamdi (U. Zeitouna), and Fathi Triki (U. Tunis);
- c) “Cultures of the autonomy, autonomy of cultures”, chaired by Mohsen El-Khouni (U. Tunis Manar) and Romdhane El-Ouri (U. Tunis Manar), and with the participation of Zouzi Chebbi (U. Paris VIII), Mohammed Jedidi (U. Constantine), Majdi Fareh (U.de Tunis), Tahar Ben Guiza (U. Tunis), Éliane Escoubas (U. Paris XII), and Mireille Delbraccio (ENS Paris);
- d) “Episteme, analogies, autonomies”, chaired by Lambros Couloubaritsis (Émérite, U. Libre de Bruxelles), and Charles Porset, and with the participation of Zeineb Cherni (U. Tunis), Philippe Lherminier (ENS Paris), Adel Mtimet (U. Sfax), Mounir Tibaoui (U.de Tunis Manar), Jean-Louis Ferrier (U. d’Angers), and Jamel Hammoudi (U. Constantine);
- e) “Political places and non places of the autonomy”, chaired by Pierre François Moreau (ENS-LSH de Lyon), Zeineb Cherni (U. Tunis), Vincent Trovato (U. Libre de Bruxelles), Rachida Triki (U. Tunis) and Mohammed Mahjoub, and with the participation of Jean Salem (U. Paris I), Charles Porset

(U. Paris IV), Foued Achour, Jean-Jacques Tatin Gourier (U. François Rabelais de Tours), Antoine Hatzemberger (ENS de Tunis), Hichem Ghorbel (U. Sfax), Juliette Grange (U. Nancy), Mounir Kechou (U. Tunis), Branko Aleksic, Couloubaritsis (Émérite, U. Libre de Bruxelles), Mohsen Khouni (U. Tunis Manar), Stéphane Douiller (U. Paris VIII), Pierre François Moreau (ENS-LSH de Lyon), Jean-Pierre Clero (U. Rouen), Mohammed Turki (U. de Tunis), and Jean-Christophe Merle (U. Tübingen / U. de Tours);

f) “Work and creation: which status for the autonomy?”, chaired by Benmeziane Bencherki (U. Oran), and with the participation of Richard Conte, Mohammed Khammassi (U. Tunis Manar), Romdhane El-Ouri (U. Tunis Manar), and Patrick Vauday (U. Paris IX).

Moreover, there will be two roundtables on the subjects:

a) “Autonomy and knowledge”, moderated by Salah Mosbah (U. Tunis), and with the participation of Nouredine Naifar (U. Tunis Manar), Angèle Kremer-Marietti (U. de Picardie, France), Lakdhar Soltani (U. Tunis), Vincent Trovato (U. Mons, Belgique), Enrico Nuzzo, Benmeziane Bencherki (U. Oran), Khadija Ksouri (U. Tunis); and,

b) “Autonomy from the point of view of young researchers”, moderated by Stéphane Douiller (U. Paris VIII), and with the participation of Mona Tayachi (UR Lum. et Mod., Tunis / CERPHI, Lyon), Riadh El Kadri (UR Lum. et Mod., Tunis), Jennet Bel Hedy (UR Lum. et Mod.,Tunis), Hela Ben Moallem (UR Lum. et Mod.,Tunis / LISA, Angers, France), Fatma Moumni (UR Lum. et Mod., Tunis), Abderrahim Garraoui (UR Lum. et Mod., Tunis), Dalila BelHarrath (UR Philo. méd. et arabe, Tunis), Naouel Kehouech (Lumières et Modernité UR Lum. et Mod., Tunis), Béchir Baazoui (Philab, Tunis), Malika Ayadi, Salem Ayadi, Moezz Mediouni, Hammadi Abid, Hatem Ouerfelli, Houcine Moussa, Karim Belkadhi, Abdessattar Ghabri, Bisma Beddouh, Imen Jeridi, and Noura Mzoughi.

33. United Kingdom

University of Keele

The University will organize the Annual Lecture of the Forum for Philosophy Research both to mark one year from the creation of the Forum and to mark the 2009 World Philosophy Day. This year, a lecture will be given on “Institutionalised Silencing: Group Prejudice and Testimonial Injustice” by Dr Miranda Fricker, a Reader in the School of Philosophy at Birkbeck College.

34. USA

St. John Fisher College, Rochester, NY

St. John Fisher College will continue with its traditional celebration of World Philosophy Day with a series of activities taking place on 18 and 19 November on the theme “Philosophy and Catholic Heritage”. The events will consist of an opening address by Kathleen Riley (Professor of History, Ohio Dominican University) on the topic “Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God and His Justice: Fulton J. Sheen's Twentieth Century Odyssey” as well as of several roundtables on the following topics:

- a) "The Catholic Heritage", with the participation of David Pate (St. John Fisher College Dean of Arts and Sciences), Sarah White (School Psychologist, Rochester School District) and Brian Winkler (Empire State College);
- b) "The roots of Catholic Education", with the participation of Tim Madigan and William Graf;
- c) "Aesthetics", with the participation of Tim Madigan, Michael Constanzo and David White;
- d) "Ethics and logic", with the intervention of David Baronov, James Moran (Daemen College), Barb Lowe and Howard Blair (Syracuse University);
- e) "Social Justice and Catholic Education", with the participation of Michael Wischnowski, Guillermo Montes, Christopher Parks (Dean, McQuaid Jesuit High School);
- f) "Fulton J. Sheen": the projection of a video on the life of the famous "television priest" (1895-1979) who is presently being considered for canonization by the Catholic Church.

The closing address will be conducted by James Simpson (Donald P. and Katherine B. Loker Professor of English, Harvard University) on the theme "Bad News Bible: Six Dark, Dynamic and Demeaning Paradoxes of Sixteenth-Century Evangelical Bible Reading".