



Philosophy and Media

Introduction

The main theme section of this issue, “Philosophy and Media”, brings a selection of papers based on presentations from the international symposium “Philosophy and Media” held on 20–23 September 2009 within the scientific-cultural event 18th *Days of Frane Petrić* on the island of Cres. This theme section makes a unit with the theme section of the same title published in *Filozofska istraživanja* (No. 120, Vol. 30 /2010/, Fasc. 4), with another selection of papers (in Croatian) from the same conference.

By reflecting the issue of media from a philosophical perspective – but, regarding the issue at hand, with necessary leaps into other scientific fields and modes of reflection – we start from the fact that the power of conventional and electronic media has nowadays increased to the extent that they no longer figure as secondary social phenomena nor do they merely retrace social ongoings, but on the contrary play an important role in not only directing but also creating social processes. This refers to both “conventional” media (the newspaper, the radio and television) and the Internet, the latter of which is a paradigmatic example of the newly arisen situation. Some other “new” and “old” means of informing and communicating should however also be included in the definition of the concept of media.

If we take into consideration, as one of the possible strongholds for the analysis of the situation, the statement about the contemporary society as “the society of the spectacle”, it becomes almost irrelevant whether emphasis is put on the *entertainment* or the *infotainment* element of the society today, because it has become clear that precisely the role of the media is the main instigator of the “spectacular” (re)creation process of the lifeworld. The question thereby posed is not only of the mutual relationship between the media and social ongoings, but also of the very constitution of man, who changes under the influence of the media both as a whole and in his/her constituent parts. In that sense, philosophy cannot ignore recent influences of up-to-date media on both human lives and contemporary philosophical thought.

The articles published here, despite the common grounds upon which they are based, also reflect the divergence of media related issues as well as the divergence of approaches to these issues: from the attempt of establishing “philosophy of media” as a philosophical discipline and reaching into the philosophical tradition in order to respond to current issues of the “media world”, through repercussion of current media processes on the socio-political sphere, to the influence of the (new) media on science and scientific system as well as religion and theology.

We believe that those readers who find this subject interesting will come upon numerous and enriching insights which present a counterweight to the dominant superficial discourse on the media, especially the superficial media practice, i.e. the endless process of auto-reproduction of the media as the production of a void world and the void itself.

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