

22nd INTERNATIONAL PHILOSOPHY OLYMPIAD

Bruno Ćurko

The 22nd International Philosophy Olympiad (IPO) was held in Vilnius, Lithuania, from 15th to 18th May 2014. The motto of this year's IPO was a quotation from work of the most famous Lithuanian philosopher, Emmanuel Lévinas: "Infinity and the Face of the Other". Students from 41 countries were required to write a philosophical essay. Four themes were offered:

1. Choosing to kill the innocent as a means to your ends is always murder (...) Killing the innocent, even if you know as a matter of statistical certainty that the things you do involve it, is not necessarily murder (...). On the other hand, unscrupulousness in considering the possibilities turns it into murder. (G.E.M. Anscombe, "Mr Truman's Degree", in: G.E.M. Anscombe, *Collected Philosophical Papers*, Vol. III (*Ethics, Religion and Politics*), Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1981, p. 66)
2. The most tantalizing question of all: If a fake is so expert that even after the most thorough and trustworthy examination its authenticity is still open to doubt, is it or is it not as satisfactory a work of art as if it were unequivocally genuine? (Aline B. Saarinen, *New York Times Book Review*, 30 July 1961, p. 14; cited in: Nelson Goodman, *Languages of Art*, 1976, p. 99)
3. Knowledge is true belief based on argument. (Plato, *Theaetetus*, 201 c–d)
"Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?" (Edmund Gettier, *Analysis* 23: 121–123)
4. Confucius said: "Now I understand why the doctrine of the mean cannot be put into practice. Clever people, knowing it thoroughly, do not think it is practicable, while stupid people, unable to understand it, do not know how to practice it. I also

know why the doctrine of the mean cannot be popularized. Talented people overdo it while unskilled people cannot do it.” (*The Doctrine of the Mean*, translated by Fu Yunlong, Beijing 1996, pp. 11–12)

In addition to a creative program which consisted of interesting excursions and visits to sights of Vilnius, program included very interesting lectures of Jolanta Saldukaitytė “Emmanuel Levinas’ Return to Lithuania”, Laura Junutytė “Arvydas Šliogeris – the Authentic Philosopher of Lithuania”, Augustinas Dainys “The Main Paradigms of Lithuanian Philosophy”, Lilija Duoblienė “Philosophy in Lithuanian Schools”, Kristupas Sabolius “Cinema and Philosophy”, and Rita Šerpytytė “What Does it Mean – to be Nihilist?”

The international jury had a hard work because many of student essays were very good. At the end, gold medals went into the hands of Vulpe dan Cristian (Romania), Elina Karstie (Finland), Jakob Gomolka (Germany), and Lukas Jonuška (Lithuania).

Silver medalists were: Jacob Karlsson Lagerros (Sweden), Beatriz Santos (Portugal), Iván György Merkei (Hungary), Abhishek Dedhe (India), João Madeira (Portugal), Tadas Temčinas (Lithuania), Radosław (Poland), and Chagajeg Soloukey Tbalvandany (The Netherlands).

Bronze medalists were: Benedikt Zöchling (Austria), Rafail Zoulis (Greece), Maša Marić (Croatia), Justinas Mickus (Lithuania), Janko Zeković (Montenegro), Francisco Ríos Viñuela (Spain), Bernt Johan Damslor (Norway), and Jani Patrakka (Finland).

Honorable mention: Federico Aguilar (Guatemala), Chan Park (The Republic of Korea), Sophus Svarre Rosendahl (Denmark), Viviana de Santis (Italy), Yuki Kanai (Japan), Martin Molan (Slovenia), Marta-Liisa Talvet (Estonia), Rūta Karbauskaitė (Lithuania), and Vraciu Cosmin Petru (Romania).

This latest very successful Philosophy Olympiad showed once again that our students can deeply reflect on philosophical topics. On the other hand, IPO shows how philosophy can be very interesting and very useful in contemporary world.¹ Next station of International Philosophy Olympiad will be in Tartu (Estonia).

¹ More about XXIII IPO is available at: <http://www.ipo2014.lt/>.