

Introduction

Kathleen Vaughn Wilkes (known to all as Kathy) was a Tutor and Fellow of Philosophy at St. Hilda's College and Lecturer in the Faculty of Philosophy at Oxford University from 1973 until her untimely death in 2003. In April 2018—the year of St Hilda's 125th Anniversary—the College celebrated her life and work by holding a two-day conference in her honour. Close to one hundred people gathered from all around Britain and Europe to share memories of Kathy both as a philosopher and as a political activist.

Kathy's political activities are well known to many. Her political work began in 1979 when she became involved with the dissident political community in Prague, Czechoslovakia (today the Czech Republic). She worked alongside political dissidents in that country, helping to bring about what has come to be known as the Velvet Revolution, bringing the then Czechoslovakia out from under 40 years of Communist rule. The work Kathy did in Czechoslovakia she did in the company of Sir Anthony Kenny, Sir Roger Scruton, Professor Denis Noble, and Professor Bill Newton Smith. These luminaries were among the academics who were invited by Kathy to give seminars in Prague—only to have their seminars raided by the authorities and their persons escorted to the border. This was duly reported in the Times of London, which, in turn, helped to raise awareness of what was happening to our colleagues in Czechoslovakia. For her work in support of this community, President Václav Havel awarded Kathy the Commemorative Medal of the President of the Czech Republic in October 1998. Her work in Eastern and Central Europe was not restricted to Czechoslovakia/The Czech Republic. In 1981 she began her association with the Inter-University Centre (the IUC) in Dubrovnik, an association that was to last until her death in 2003. Over the many years of her association with the IUC Kathy organized courses in the philosophy of science together with Professor Bill Newton-Smith and others. The year 1991 saw the beginning of yet another chapter in Kathy's political career. This time it was to defend the Croatian cause in their war of Independence. Her efforts on behalf of this cause are numerous (for those who want to learn more about Kathy and the city of Dubrovnik I refer you to the paper by Nada Bruer Ljubišić, the Croatian Journal of Philosophy, Vol. XXII, No. 66, 2022). What I will record here is the fact that Kathy was awarded honorary citizenship for her efforts on behalf of the city of Dubrovnik, and her portrait has been permanently placed in the City's Council Hall.

At the end of the 2018 Conference in her honour at St Hilda's the then Croatian Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Igor Pokaz, approached the then Principal of St Hilda's, Sir Gordon Duff, urging that we re-establish the link that Kathy had built with the IUC in the decades before her death. As the Southover Manor Trust Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy at St. Hilda's College at that time it was my job to make this happen. After much discussion, I managed to put together a Memorandum of Agreement (for three years in the first instance) between the IUC and St Hilda's to hold a yearly Kathy Wilkes Conference in Cognitive and Social Science. The Chair of the Herbert Simon Society in Turin, Italy, Professor Riccardo Viale, a one-time academic collaborator with Kathy, asked if that organization might join in. It was agreed that these three Institutions would take it in turns to organize a conference each Spring on a topic that had links with some aspect of Kathy's work.

*Kathy was trained as a philosopher of Ancient Greek and, indeed, her Fellowship at St Hilda's was to teach the Classics part of the course. While Kathy taught and published papers in ancient philosophy, she also did ground-breaking work in the philosophy of mind. She was extremely interested in keeping up with developments in psychology and the nascent neurosciences, and she was as knowledgeable about certain issues in these disciplines as she was about a large range of topics in philosophy. Much of her published work centred around issues to do with personal identity and the self. Her books, *Physicalism* (published by Routledge in 1978), and *Real People* (published by Oxford University Press in 1988) are still read by students today. She also published *Modelling the Mind* in 1990, a volume edited along with K. A. Mohyeldin Said, W. H. Newton-Smith, and R. Viale and also published by Oxford University Press. *Modelling the Mind* came out of inter-disciplinary work that Kathy was engaged in with colleagues in the social sciences. Kathy was ahead of her time when she engaged in this interdisciplinary work. She was also very involved in interdisciplinary work with psychologists and physiologists (many of whom we would now classify as neuroscientists)—work which at that time was brought together under the heading of 'the cognitive sciences.' While we aim to celebrate all of Kathy's work, we have chosen to highlight her interdisciplinary work in the cognitive and social sciences in our annual conference in her honour.*

The first of our memorial conferences took place in Dubrovnik in the Spring of 2021. The topic for the conference was "(Re) Assessing Goal Directed Activity," and we were delighted to have as our Inaugural speaker a one-time collaborator and great friend of Kathy's Professor Denis Noble, currently Emeritus Fellow at Balliol College Oxford. The proceedings of that conference were published in the issue of the Croatian Journal of Philosophy mentioned above.

In the Spring of 2022, the second of the Kathy Wilkes Conferences was held at St Hilda's College, Oxford. The topic for discussion was Explorations in Human and Artificial Cognition. The speakers were scheduled

as follows: Professor Mark Sprevak, Edinburgh University, Professor Dunja Jutrović, University of Split, Croatia, Professor Shaun Gallagher, University of Memphis, Professor Konstantinos Katsikopoulos, University of Southampton, Professor Philipp Koralaus, St Catherine's College Oxford, Professor Zvonimir Šikić, University of Rijeka, Center for Logic and Decision Theory, Croatia. At the last minute, Professor Sprevak was unable to join us, and Professor Peter Millican stepped in to replace him. While Peter gave us a terrific paper on Alan Turing and the use of his work in connection with human-like intelligence, the pressures of time mean that we are unable to publish his paper in this volume. However, Mark Sprevak (together with Robert O'Shaughnessy from the University of Edinburgh) has given us a paper to include in this volume. Finally, we are not able to publish the paper by Professor Koralaus, although we can refer readers to his book, *Reason & Inquiry: the erotetic theory*, published by Oxford University Press in 2022. The paper he gave at the conference was based on this book which had been published only a few months earlier.

We are delighted that the Croatian Journal of Philosophy has once again chosen to publish the proceedings of the second of our Kathy Wilkes Memorial Conference in Social and Cognitive Science.

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