

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of *Prilozi*

On Thursday, 30 January 2025, the Institute of Philosophy in Zagreb hosted a celebration marking the 50th anniversary of the journal *Prilozi za istraživanje hrvatske filozofske baštine* (*Contributions to the Research of Croatian Philosophical Heritage*). The event brought together editors, contributors, and scholars to reflect on the journal's legacy and its ongoing role in shaping the identity of Croatian philosophy.

Since its founding in 1975, *Prilozi* has been the *only* academic journal in Croatia dedicated entirely to the study of Croatian philosophy. At the event, Ivana Skuhala Karasman, the current editor-in-chief, emphasised the journal's crucial role over the decades in preserving and promoting the country's philosophical heritage, including its commitment to publishing original manuscripts, translations, and the bibliographies of Croatian philosophers, thereby making previously inaccessible or overlooked works available to scholars. Through this, *Prilozi* has played a key part in keeping Croatian philosophical thought visible and relevant within the broader academic debate. Karasman also spoke about a recent initiative aimed at expanding the journal's reach – *Croatian Philosophers in English* – which was introduced in 2024 to regularly publish translations of Croatian philosophical texts. This addition is intended to make Croatian philosophy more accessible to an international audience, with the aim of enabling collaboration and more extensive research on Croatian thinkers, beyond national borders.

Several speakers at the event reflected on the enduring importance of *Prilozi* and its role in shaping the identity and the study of Croatian philosophy. Consulting editor Luka Boršić emphasised the journal's deep connection to the Institute of Philosophy in Zagreb, arguing that *Prilozi* is not merely a publication associated with the Institute but a defining element of its profile and research identity. Boršić also suggested that the very notion of 'Croatian philosophy' may owe much of its conceptualisation to the journal itself. In this sense, *Prilozi* plays a foundational role regarding the mission of the Institute. Erna Banić-Pajnić, editor-in-chief from 1985 to 1987, further highlighted the journal's influence beyond its own pages, noting that the research published in *Prilozi* has been referenced in other philosophical journals, encyclopaedias, anthologies, and books. She underscored the significance of the journal's uninterrupted publication, which has allowed it to maintain its scholarly profile and remain true to its original mission. Drawing on the example of Franjo Marković,

who insisted on the continuity of philosophical work within the Croatian intellectual tradition, she pointed out that *Prilozi* embodies this same commitment to sustained philosophical inquiry. However, she also raised an important challenge: while the journal is dedicated to the study of philosophical heritage, heritage *itself* is not merely a historical concern but also a philosophical issue. So, to address this issue, Banić-Pajnić suggested the journal should engage both historical perspectives and contemporary philosophical contributions. Damir Barbarić, editor-in-chief from 1988 to 1990, expanded on the broader conceptual significance of *Prilozi*, situating it within the discourse of national philosophy. He explored how the journal builds upon the idea of a Croatian philosophical tradition, one shaped by its historical and cultural surroundings. Croatian philosophy, Barbarić explained, has developed at the intersection of Mediterranean, Central European, and Balkan-Anatolian (Byzantine) intellectual influences. These neighbouring traditions, while distinct, have contributed to Croatia's philosophical identity in a way that is neither passive nor derivative. Rather than simply absorbing external influences, Croatian thought has drawn upon these cultural currents to cultivate its own intellectual trajectory, producing something that is truly and uniquely its own. To conclude, Barbarić drew on a powerful thought from Franjo Marković: among the humanities, philosophy is uniquely characterised by the ability to unite individuals in a shared intellectual endeavour. More than other disciplines, it possesses a cohesive force, bringing thinkers together in the collective pursuit of understanding. This idea, perhaps more than anything else, encapsulates the mission of *Prilozi* over the past fifty years: not merely a repository of philosophical texts, but a living space for the continued engagement and development of Croatian philosophy.

The 50th anniversary of *Prilozi* highlighted its importance for the continuity of Croatian thought, balancing historical research with contemporary inquiry, and situating Croatian philosophy within a wider intellectual and cultural context. Because of that, *Prilozi* has been a space where Croatian philosophy is both studied and defined. As the journal moves forward, it will keep providing a platform for new generations of scholars who wish to engage with Croatia's intellectual tradition, as well as with the philosophical question of how to understand heritage. The journal has kept its original mission and successfully evolved over time to encompass both historical and contemporary perspectives on Croatian philosophy, which is a testament to its lasting relevance.

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