

Introduction to special issue of the Croatian Journal of Philosophy dedicated to Kant's critical philosophy

The present issue of the Croatian Journal of Philosophy is dedicated to the conference "Kant's Critical System," held at the University of Rijeka in November 2024, as part of the research project "Aesthetic Education through Narrative Art and Its Value for the Humanities," funded by the Croatian Scientific Foundation (<https://aetna.uniri.hr>). The conference, organized by Iris Vidmar Jovanović, Ema Luna Lalić (Rijeka University) and Andrija Šoć (University of Belgrade) was intended to mark the 300th anniversary of Kant's birth and to explore the invaluable and incalculable legacy of his opus and its impact on development of analytic philosophy. Two of the papers presented at the conference are published here.

Serena Feloj explores the role of disgust education in Kant, considering its aesthetic and moral implications. She elaborates on Kant's distinction between physical education, shared with animals, and moral education, which is essential for living according to freedom. On Kant's view, disgust functions as a defense mechanism against one's animality and impulses that hinder human elevation, representing resistance to bodily drives and moral vices. Feloj proposes a taxonomy of disgust, differentiating between physical disgust related to the senses and cultural, as well as moral disgust, associated with repulsion towards vice and evil. Bringing this in relation to Kant's account of aesthetic education, she concludes that disgust, far from being an antisocial emotion, serves as a valuable pedagogical and cultural tool in the process of human civilization and refinement, by linking empirical feelings, aesthetics, and morality.

Lukas Ivanauskas unites Kant's political philosophy and aesthetics in order to define political life as transcendently ideal and empirically real. He does so by proposing an unorthodox reading of Kant's aesthetics of the beautiful and the sublime in light of Schmitt's concept of the political. The paper argues that Kant's aesthetics suggests a twofold foundation for political life, presenting a political antinomy between politics as boundless experience and as antagonistic struggle.

*A special part of the conference was devoted to the book symposium on Lara Ostaric's remarkable *The Critique of Judgment* and the Unity of Kant's Critical System (Cambridge University Press, 2023), and the lively discussions of her work are presented in the Author-Meets-Critics part that CJP opens with. The contributors include Luigi Filieri, Andrija Šoć, Monika Jovanović and Ted Kinnaman, each of whom addresses different aspects of Ostaric's book, engaging in the process with Kant's epistemology and metaphysics (Filieri and Kinnaman), political philosophy (Šoć) and aesthetics (Jovanović).*

*To keep up with the theme of Kant's philosophy, in the Book review section Iris Vidmar Jovanović offers a critical reading of Mojca Kuplen's intriguing book *Kant's Aesthetic Cognitivism: On the Value of Art* (Bloomsbury).*

On the behalf of the organizing committee of the conference, I would like to thank all the participants of the conference, to Tvrтко Jolić at the Croatian Journal for providing us with the platform to exchange ideas, and to Lara Ostaric who was not only our keynote speaker (together with Gabriele Gava) but has kindly written the responses to the papers concerned with her work.¹

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