

Dear Reader,

You are looking at a new issue of *Disputatio philosophica*, whose thematic orientation has been shaped by discussions held at the First CePOZiR Conference (Zagreb, September 24–26, 2025), organized by the Center for the Study of the Relationship between Science and Religion at the Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies, University of Zagreb. As the inaugural event in what is envisaged as an ongoing series of conferences, it brought together international scholars to reflect on shared themes. The conference is structured around three sections — *The Relationship between Science and Religion* (of particular interest to the Center), *Religion and Society* (of relevance to the Faculty), and *Science and Society* (of importance to the University) — perspectives that are also, to some extent, reflected in the contributions gathered in this issue.

Held under the main theme *Exploring Research Directions*, the 2025 Conference featured three keynote addresses by leading international experts, nine invited lectures, and 38 contributed presentations by researchers from 15 countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Israel, Italy, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) and across a wide range of disciplines, from the humanities to the natural sciences. Collectively, these contributions advanced existing debates, raised new questions, and encouraged further reflection on participants' own work.

By invitation of the Editor-in-Chief, and to mark the occasion, I agreed to select six lectures delivered within the official conference programme and invited the authors to develop them into manuscripts suitable for publication in *Disputatio philosophica*. The selection was not random, but carefully considered, as I would like to believe. The resulting issue includes contributions ranging from original research articles, hypotheses, and reviews to short communications and essays. All of them offer something novel and

intellectually stimulating, even when addressing familiar or previously explored topics.

For instance, *From Truth to Counterfeit*, although still a study rather than a fully developed final account, problematizes the important question of the (lack of) authenticity in certain strands of contemporary academic thought (including art), a concern that should engage us all. Another study, ...*Account on Bogomilism*, anticipates the use of technology in comparative theology and points toward tangible possibilities for future collaboration between distinct and distant domains. Although still exploratory in nature, the *Microbiological Hypothesis* proposes a plausible religiological hypothesis that is, in principle, open to empirical scientific testing. If you prefer more conventional academic formats, such as reviews and fully developed research articles, which are less intended to immediately ignite the imagination than to sharpen the intellect, you may turn to *Dialogue Between Theology and Science* and the *Emergence of the Scientific Method*, both of which represent mature outcomes of experienced and engaged scholarship. Finally, before you “close the last page” and turn off your computer, you may wish to glance “across the street” at the essay *Created for Play*: there you will find a refined intellectual exercise that is both conceptually rich and unexpectedly lyrical, almost poetic, inviting a second reading.

Having said that, I leave you to decide what and how to read. Perhaps a new idea, already present — however faintly — in your scientific imagination has been awakened and will gradually develop, perhaps even coming to fruition at the Second CePOZiR Conference or earlier. Until then, dear Reader, I leave you with your thoughts, naively believing that some of them may indeed be stirred by the reflections of others that you encounter in this new issue of *Disputatio philosophica: International Journal on Philosophy and Religion*.

Yours sincerely,

Petar Tomev Mitrikeski, Guest Editor