

Biographical notes

Ivana Lalić Čičković has held a Master's degree in Nursing since 2017. She is employed at the University Hospital Centre Zagreb in the Department of Respiratory Infections and Tuberculosis, where she serves as Head Nurse of the Respiratory Infections Ward. At the Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies she is a doctoral student in philosophy, directing her research toward the field of genetic engineering, an interdisciplinary area connecting medicine, bioethics, and contemporary scientific challenges. She is a member of the multidisciplinary team of the Ministry of Health's Reference Centre for Cystic Fibrosis in Adult Patients, contributing to the coordination of care and the exchange of professional knowledge. She presents at numerous domestic and international conferences and publishes widely in both professional and scientific journals.

Luka Janeš is a contemporary Croatian philosopher and academic whose work primarily bridges environmental ethics, integrative bioethics, and the philosophy of mental health. Born in Zagreb in 1986, he completed his higher education at the University of Zagreb, where he earned his doctorate with a dissertation focusing on the eco-ethics of Aldo Leopold. He currently serves as an Assistant Professor at the University of Zagreb's Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Sciences, and he is a prominent associate at the University Centre for Integrative Bioethics. Beyond his academic research and numerous publications, Janeš is widely recognized as the founder and organizer of the International Transdisciplinary Symposium "Bioethics and the Aporias of Psyche," and the Croatian Association for Philosophical Practice (HUFPP). He actively translates philosophical theory into practice as a certified philosophical counselor and practitioner of logotherapy. He is the co-founder and deputy editor of *Philosophical Counselor*.

Toma Gruica completed his Master's degree in Philosophy and History at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Split, and earned his doctorate in philosophy at the Karl-Franzens University in Graz. He is employed as an Assistant Professor at the University of Defence and Security "Dr. Franjo Tuđman" in Zagreb. To date, he has published more than forty scientific and professional articles and participated in various domestic and international conferences. He currently has two books forthcoming: a monograph based on his doctoral dissertation, entitled *A Heideggerian Study in Phenomenological Psychopathology – Embodied Coupling and World Disclosure* with Springer Nature, as well as a book titled *Depression, Serotonin, and Embodiment: A Phenomenological and Critical Examination of SSRI Pharmacotherapy* with Psychiatria Danubina. He is Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Philosophical Counselor* and Vice-President of the Croatian Association for Philosophical Practice. Beyond his philosophical research focus, directed toward phenomenology, psychopathology, cognitive science, enactivism, christian theology and military ethics, he is also an naïve painter, dramaturge, and is a great lover of animals and nature. "In 2026, he was awarded a Post-DocTrack Fellowship by the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

Bojana Zorić is a psychology student from Herceg Novi, Montenegro, at the Akademija za humani razvoj in Belgrade, Serbia. She is pursuing undergraduate studies in psychology, a program focused on the scientific study of human behavior, mental processes, and psychological development. Through her education, she is developing knowledge in areas such as cognitive, developmental, social, and clinical psychology, along with research methods and professional practice in the field. Beyond her academic work, Bojana Zorić is a poet and interdisciplinary artist whose creative practice explores the

depths of the human condition. In her free time, she writes theological and scientifically informed essays that seek to bridge psychology, philosophy, and Orthodox Christian theology. Her work is centered on themes of intimacy, love, personhood, and the mystery of Being with God, reflecting a contemplative approach that brings together intellectual inquiry and spiritual experience. Through both her poetry and prose, she investigates the relationship between human vulnerability, transcendence, and the search for meaning, striving to illuminate the profound encounter between the human person and the divine.

Ana Umičević is a doctoral student at the Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies of the University of Zagreb. Her academic interests focus on philosophy and interdisciplinary approaches to contemporary ethical, cultural, and social issues. Through her studies, she is developing expertise in philosophical inquiry and the application of philosophical perspectives to current challenges in society.

Patricija Čurić is a student of German studies at the Karl-Franzens University of Graz, Austria, whose core interests are art-historical analysis and linguistics. In her free time she devotes herself to hiking and photography, exploring new perspectives and layers of meaning in nature and everyday life. Her favorite quote is: "Oh, small is the gift given to us, for all of life – it is a dream, and dreams themselves are but dreams.." – Pedro Calderón de la Barca.

Ivan Smiljanić holds Master's degrees in Philosophy and History from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb. He is a doctoral student in Modern and Contemporary Croatian History at the same faculty and is employed at the State Archives in Zagreb, where he serves as Head of the Department for Records Created after 1945. His research interests include modern and contemporary Croatian history, the philosophy of history, archival theory and practice, intellectual history, European identity, and the role of archives in preserving cultural heritage. He has published more than thirty scholarly articles, book reviews, and essays, has presented his research at national and international scientific conferences, and participates in the editorial work of Croatian academic journals. He is also active in professional and scholarly associations in the fields of philosophy, history, and archival science.