

4th Colloquium on the Modalities of the Good

23rd – 25th July 2014, Prague

The fourth Colloquium on the Modalities of the Good continues the effort began in 2009: to create space for conversation and discussion between thinkers of broadly speaking Platonic tradition in ethics, and to open it to the general philosophical public. The tradition, with its commitment to absolute value, and thus the irreducibility of the central ethical terms, is marked also by the belief that their recognition involves a complex cooperation between thought and emotions such as love, joy or remorse. Internal to these concerns, and thus to the tradition itself, is the problem of how to approach them: of the relation between the what and the how in philosophical, particularly ethical, thinking. Reflection about the give-and-take between the substance and the method goes back to Socrates' devotion to and Plato's exploration of, the philosophical dialogue. It characterises not only thinkers who acknowledge their kinship to Plato, such as Kierkegaard or Simone Weil, but also some who do not, such as Wittgenstein. Contemporary 'Platonic' tradition, associated in English-speaking philosophy with the names of Roy Holland, Iris Murdoch, Peter Winch, Rai Gaita or Cora Diamond, is marked by this dual concern, and the Colloquium thematises to an equal extent the problem(s) of ethics, of thinking about ethics and of ethical thinking. For those same reasons, the Colloquium is emphatically a col-loquium: not a forum for presenting 'finished' results, but conversation about issues of shared interest, offered for discussion by the contributions of the speakers.

- Marina Barabas: *Possibilities of the Will*
(Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic)
- Anne-Marie Christensen: *Ethics, Self-reflection and Moral Context*
(University of Southern Denmark)
- Christopher Cordner: *Talbot Brewer and the Meaning of Tenderness*
(University of Melbourne)
- Christopher Cowley: *Thank Goodness I Failed*
(University College Dublin)
- Nora Hämäläinen: *The Roots of Morality in 'Ordinary Life'*
(University of Helsinki)
- David Levy: *Inner Good and External Good*
(University of Edinburgh)
- Kamila Pacovská: *Dmitrij Karamazov Is Not a Murderer. The Significance of Action*
(University of Pardubice)
- David Robjant: *Iris Murdoch, Kafka, and 'Messing About'*
- Samantha Vice: *Pessimism and the Force of Ideals*
(Rhodes University)