

The First Summer School of Process Philosophy organized by the Whitehead Metaphysical Society took place at The Franciscan Monastery in Katowice-Panewniki. It lasted six days from July 20th to July 26th 2009.

The participants came from many regions and cities of Poland, among others from Kraków, Katowice, Toruń, Lublin, Gdańsk. The group was composed mostly of philosophy students, but also of graduates of other faculties. The five following days were filled with morning lectures and afternoon seminars. In the evenings documentary films were shown. The school hosted two guests: Piotr and Ewa Mielech, the authors of previously shown documentaries about Edmund Husserl's disciples.

The lectures were given and seminars were run by Bruce D. MacQueen PhD, Bogdan Ogrodnik PhD, Kleofas W. Gródek PhD OFM, Piotr Pękala PhD. For it was the first meeting of this kind, most of the lectures were mainly introductory. Kleofas W. Gródek pointed out the ancient origins of many fundamental notions functioning in metaphysical thinking. He analyzed the changes that occurred throughout the centuries in the ways of understanding such categories as process, substance, identity, mind etc.

Stressing the importance of a process perspective, Bogdan Ogrodnik analyzed some problems connected with an ongoing evolution of the understanding of change and the inner dynamics of natural processes explored by natural sciences. Discoveries of the last few decades show clearly that scientific models and theoretical reconstructions of the phenomenon of change based on traditional substantialism are very limited and not able to grasp deeper features and dimensions of reality. The further lectures of Bogdan Ogrodnik were intended to introduce the Whiteheadian terminology of the philosophy of organism. In particular, to clarify some of the main categories of the Categoreal Scheme, an introductory chapter from Whitehead's *Process and Reality*.

Piotr Pękala started his lecture with a presentation of the essential features of metaphysical thinking in general. Among them are: anti-dogmatism, the hypothetical character of a doctrine and intellectual openness for every possible kind of experience. He subsequently presented Whitehead's arguments for the thesis that speculation and rationality not only do not exclude each other, but moreover, they are the elements enhancing and completing each other in creative thinking about reality. The second lecture presented some applications of processual thinking in the social sciences. It was based mainly on the last chapter of Whitehead's *Science and the Modern World*, but also on selected papers and articles of John B. Cobb concerning the social consequences of promoting the neoliberal strategies as the only and best remedy for complex economic problems. Part of the lecture was devoted to Leslie A. Muray and his processual interpretation of certain psychological phenomena.

Prof. Bruce MacQueen in his lecture presented the main theses of the theory of microgenesis - the doctrine close to processual thinking, formulated by Jason W. Brown. The theory tries to understand and interpret mental activity as the product of evolution - constantly becoming and ever-changing. Prof. Bruce MacQueen pointed out that many results of research into this area prove there is a weak correlation among different brain regions and that fact partly questions the cognitive models of brain functioning.

The First Summer School of Process Philosophy, in its official part, was finished with a summarizing seminar entitled *Quo vadis metaphysica?* and less officially with the special dinner.