



Department of Philosophy, University of Ostrava

VIVARIUM – Centre for Research in Medieval Society and Culture

Czech Society for the Study of Aristotle

Call for Papers:

# Issues of Perception between Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy

Ostrava (Czech Republic), 6<sup>th</sup>–7<sup>th</sup> October 2016

The conference aims to inquire into the various theories of sensory perception introduced by the philosophers between middle ages and early modern era (broadly 11<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century). The conference is open for contributors taking into consideration both medieval philosophers and the thinkers of the second scholasticism, but also renaissance and early modern scholars.

One of the aims of the conference is to detect various attitudes towards the issues of sensory perception – or intellectual traditions these thinkers identified with, developed or criticised (e. g. the Aristotelian or Averroistic, Platonic or Augustinian, Thomistic or Scotistic traditions, or the tradition of optics or the early modern way of ideas). The consideration of such a long period in the history of philosophy should point to the fact that these intellectual traditions often bridge the usual historical categories of middle ages, renaissance and early modern era.

The presentations can be inspired by a topic from the following list:

- The mechanism of perception. Are the senses active or passive during the perception? Intromission vs. extramission theory of visual perception. What is the role of causality and attention in perception? The so-called active sense (*sensus agens*).
- Perception, intentionality and ontology. What is the structure of the perceptual act? What is its object? Direct realism, representationalism, idealism. Ontology of colours, sounds and odours. Primary and secondary qualities. Can we perceive the substance?
- Perception and knowledge. Epistemic certainty and reliability of senses. Sensory illusions. Scepticism. Is there a possibility of Divine delusion?
- Perception and consciousness. How do we perceive that we perceive something? Reflective acts and the so-called common sense (*sensus communis*). Phenomenal consciousness.
- Sensory modalities. How many sense do we have? Is taste actually reducible to touch? What is the organ and object of touch? Proprioception. The unity of sensory experience and selective attention: when one sense hinders the other.
- The relations between the sensory perception and the other cognitive powers: perception and imagination, perception and intellect. The so-called judgements of the common sense. External and internal senses.
- The relations among the sensory perception and the appetitive powers: perception and emotions, perception and the preservation of life. The beauty: role of the senses in the origins of aesthetics.
- Perception and history of science: how did the scientific theories affect the philosophical accounts of perception? Optics, acoustics, physiology. Theories of light. Is perception purely physical event?

The conference takes place **since 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> October** 2016 in **Ostrava**, Czech Republic (at Faculty of Arts, Reální 5, Ostrava). The conference languages are **English** and **Czech**. The scheduled length of presentations is **30 minutes** (included approximately 10 minutes of discussion). The selected papers will be published in the form of collective monography or special issue of *Studia Neoaristotelica*.

To submit, please e-mail the title and the abstract (in the length of approximately 200 words) to Lukáš Lička ([lukas.licka@outlook.com](mailto:lukas.licka@outlook.com)). The deadline for abstract submission is **15<sup>th</sup> July 2016**. The programme of conference will be ready by the 15<sup>th</sup> of August.

The conference is held under auspices of the project *Collective Identity in the Social Networks of Medieval Europe*.

Steering committee:

**Marek Otisk, Ph. D.**  
([marek.otisk@osu.cz](mailto:marek.otisk@osu.cz))

Assoc. Prof. at Faculty of Arts,  
University of Ostrava;  
Institute of Philosophy of the Czech  
Academy of Sciences

**Lukáš Lička**  
([lukas.licka@outlook.com](mailto:lukas.licka@outlook.com))

Ph. D. candidate  
at Faculty of Arts,  
University of Ostrava

**Daniel Heider, Ph. D.**  
([daniel.heider@seznam.cz](mailto:daniel.heider@seznam.cz))

Assoc. Prof. at Faculty of Theology,  
University of South Bohemia;  
Institute of Philosophy of the Czech  
Academy of Sciences