

LOOKING FOR A RESEARCH PARTNER? MEET OUR FACULTY MEMBERS



**FACULTY OF
CHRISTIAN
PHILOSOPHY**

-
CARDINAL
STEFAN WYSZYŃSKI
UNIVERSITY

OUR FACULTY EMPLOYS NEARLY 100 SCHOLARS - RESEARCHERS AND TEACHERS. WE WORK IN PHILOSOPHY, PSYCHOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES. HERE YOU CAN FIND A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SOME OF OUR RESEARCH PROJECTS. IF YOU SHARE ANY OF OUR INTERESTS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT OUR COLLEAGUES.

THE STRUCTURE OF CONSCIOUSNESS

This phenomenological project analyses the structure of consciousness, especially its categorial organization, its connection with linguistic meaning and its ability to form and sustain a personal model of the world.

PHILOSOPHY OF COGNITIVE SCIENCE

Studies on simulation, I-structure, attention and colour perception; concepts based on recent findings in cognitive psychology and linguistics.

ANALYTIC PHILOSOPHY

Theoretical philosophy: studies on the notion of truth. In practical philosophy: studies on wrongdoing, reconciliation, self-delusion, self-knowledge.

*Prof. Dr. Robert Pilat is a full professor of philosophy. For more than two decades active as a teacher and researcher at the Polish Academy of Sciences, Stefan Wyszyński University, Warsaw University, and Jagiellonian University. His original contributions to the above-mentioned fields of study are: 1. phenomenology - a conception of a personal model of the world, an analysis of Husserlian notions of temporal now and his theory of judgement. Books: **Does Consciousness exist?** (1993), **The personal model of the World** (1999). 2. philosophy of cognitive science - a theory of concepts as abstract individuals. Books: **Experience and Concept** (2006), **The Essence of Concepts** (2007). 3. analytic philosophy - elaboration of future oriented perspective on self-knowledge and a conception of prospective strategies in dealing with past wrongs, also a detailed discussion of the notion of forgiveness. Books: **Wrongdoing and Reperation of Wrongs** (2003), **Self-knowledge and Obligation** (2013, in print). Work in progress: **Aporetic Nature of Self-knowledge**. Also active as an author of didactic publications for philosophical education in schools. Teaching themes over last years: (1) Introduction to cognitive science; (2) Philosophy and literature; (3) Modern epistemology; (4) Philosophy of probability and statistics; (5) Self-knowledge and self-deception.*

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LANGUAGE, MEANING, WORLD

What are the nature and properties of linguistic meanings? What is the role of language in our cognitive system? What are relations between language and the external world? Language may be explained as a system for processing and storing information about the world, obtained through the senses. Linguistic signs get their semantic properties, such as meaning and reference, as a result of informational processes. An important feature of language is its ability to represent the world - this is the basis for all other functions of language.

MENTAL REPRESENTATION AND COGNITIVE CONTENT

How are cognitive categories and language meanings constituted in external interactions with the world? Is a fully externalist theory of the cognitive content possible?

THE NATURE OF INFORMATION

Information plays a fundamental role in shaping the material and mental structures.

*Prof. Dr. Janina Buczkowska is a philosopher who systematically develops a concept of language as a system of signs formed in informational processes. Her doctoral dissertation, **The functions of signs and the flow of information** was devoted to this topic as well as books: **The systemic character of language** and **On the informational and relational nature of cognitive representations**, and many papers.*

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CHANCE AND NATURE

The category of chance plays a crucial role in our description of nature (vide: quantum theories, evolutionary factors). However, when one speaks of a chancy event, they may mean quite different features of this event: it may be the lack of cause or the lack of aim; it may be an ontic characteristics of the event itself or epistemic property of our knowledge of it; it may be absolute or relative (e.g. to the current state of knowledge). It is widely accepted that in natural sciences a proper tool for a description of chancy events is the theory of probability. Is it, however, a philosophically satisfying 'theory of chance'?

HUMAN SPECIFICITY

What makes us human? Is it our special biological dispositions which evolved over millions of years and at some point in time brought about our unique new species? Is it the size of human brain? language skills? abstract thinking? Most of such features we share with animals (vide: limited but existing numerical skills in chimpanzees or their tool-making, symbolic systems of signs in the communication of such 'primitive' species as bees). Most religions, and especially Christianity, insist that we are absolutely unique, we have the spiritual side to our being. But what is it exactly? Can this religious conviction be vindicated by scientific findings, or are science and religion irreconcilable with this respect?

*Dr. Grzegorz Bugajak is a philosopher who in his research and teaching deals with fundamental issues in the philosophy of nature: matter, space and time, cause and chance, and with Science & Religion problems. He obtained his PhD in 1999 with the thesis: **Epistemological Status of the Big Bang Theory and its Philosophical Implications**. He wrote also a series of papers on **The key concepts in the philosophy of nature and its role in the shaping of the science - theology relation**. In 2005 he was one of the winners in the international "Global Perspectives on Science and Spirituality" programme, to pursue a research on **Current controversies about human origins: Between anthropology and the Bible**. Since 2006 he is an elected Council member of the European Society for the Study of Science and Theology (ESSSAT).*

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THE PHILOSOPHY OF GOD AND RELIGION

Arguments for the existence and nature of God; relation between reason and faith; causes of atheism and secularism in contemporary culture; Schopenhauer's and Nietzsche's philosophy of religion.

JEWISH PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy of Edith Stein; causes of anti-Semitism and the Holocaust.

THE METHODOLOGY OF METAPHYSICS

The properties of metaphysical cognition; the philosophy of man; the need for practicing of classical metaphysics.

Prof. Dr. Paweł Mazanka is a professor of Philosophy and director of the Chair of Metaphysics at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw.

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JEWISH PHILOSOPHY OF NATURE

The aim of this research programme is to analyze the views of Jewish philosophers (from antiquity to the mid-twentieth century) on the structure and substance of the material world, time, space, changeability, causation, the origin of the universe, the nature of miracle, and on the present philosophical vision of nature in Jewish philosophy. In addition, it will attempt to assess the impact of science on the development of Jewish philosophy. The main goal of the project is to answer the following questions: (1) How has the image of the natural world changed in Jewish thought throughout the ages? (2) What factors determined the transformation of the image of the world in Jewish philosophy? (3) What is the contribution of the Jewish philosophy of nature to the overall achievements of philosophy? (4) To what extent can this philosophy, remaining in contact with natural sciences, be an inspiration for the development of modern Jewish philosophy? (5) Which theses of the Jewish philosophy of nature may be relevant for the development of science - religion dialogue? The results obtained in the study of Jewish philosophy of nature can be a part of shaping a new interpretation of some of the claims of Jewish theology. In addition, the Jewish philosophy of nature in the modern version, referring to the historical manifestations, could fulfill the role of a 'mediator' between Judaism and Christianity.

*Prof. Dr. Adam Świeżyński in his research work deals with the question of human death, philosophical aspects of the emergence of the universe and life, as well as with the philosophy of miracle, and relations between natural sciences and theology. He has published some books, several dozen of articles and a few collective works (e.g. **The Philosophy of Human Death. An Evolutionary Approach**, 2009; **Philosophy of Nature Today**, 2009; **Knowledge and Values. Selected Issues in the Philosophy of Science**, 2011; **Ontology of Miracle. God's Action and System Approach Towards the Ontology of Miracle**, 2012; **Epistemology of Miracle. Scientific Inexplicability, Religious Sense and System Approach Towards the Epistemology of Miracle**, 2012).*

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THE CONCEPT OF NATURE IN ENVIRONMENTAL PHILOSOPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

How the concept of nature has changed in environmental philosophy? Since philosophers 'rediscovered' the intrinsic value of nature its perception has changed. This phenomenon is a part of a cultural shift from anthropocentric to non-anthropocentric views. Many philosophers try to equate man and nature, some even postulate giving more rights to environment and its elements (including animals) than to people. The aim of research is to analyze this cultural shift, its characteristics, its roots, and the status that nature has in culture.

Dr. Dominika Dzwonkowska acquired M.A. and PhD in Philosophy (2005, 2011) and M.Sc. in Environmental Protection. She works as an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Ecology and Bioethics where she lectures and carries out research on Environmental Philosophy, Sustainability and Environmental Ethics. Since 2013 she is the International Representative for Poland in the International Society for Environmental Ethics.

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HOLISTIC ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

What are the foundations for the most adequate approach to holistic environmental ethics? What anthropology is the right one? Why biocentrism and weak anthropocentrism are not enough for our relation with nature?

RELATIONSHIP OF MANKIND WITH NATURE IN THE HISTORY OF HUMAN SPECIES

Were humans always anthropocentric? How has the attitude of humans towards nature changed in time? What was the crucial factor in shaping our worldview?

UNIQUENESS OF MANKIND IN THE WORLD OF NATURE

Who are humans as a part of the community of living beings? Why are we perceiving ourselves as a 'superior' species in nature? Are we 'better' or 'more important' than other living beings?

*Dr. Anita Ganowicz-Bączyk is a philosopher who deals with environmental / ecological ethics. Her research interests focus on environmental ethics, ecophilosophy and philosophical anthropology. Her Doctoral Thesis (2008) **The Debate over Anthropocentrism in Polish Environmental Ethics** was published as a book (in Polish) **The Debate over Environmental Ethics** (2009).*

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PERFORMANCE PHILOSOPHY

Performance Philosophy is a research project concerning performative dimension of language. We've been looking for answers to such questions as: How does a word become deed? How do performative actions become a part of the legitimacy of a speech act? What are effects of a speech act for the agent? What is the relation between performative acts and cognition?

Dr. Andrzej Waleszczyński is a contact person responsible for the project. Other members of our Section of Ethics are: Prof. Dr. Ryszard Moń, Prof. Dr. Ewa Podreż, Dr. Karolina Rozmarynowska, Dr. Adam Cebula.

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INTELLECTUAL COGNITION IN ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY

To understand what intellectual cognition really is, it seems to be crucial to investigate the intellectual way which ancient and medieval philosophers took in trying to establish the proper method of the cognition of reality. From Anaxagoras to William Ockham, the way led through wide fields outlined by Aristotle, the dark recesses of his ancient commentators (Alexander of Aphrodisias, Themistius), the winding streets of Arabian philosophers (Al-Kindi, Al-Farabi, Avicenna, Averroes), uprising with difficulty medieval philosophers' solutions (Wilhelm of Auvergne, John of La Rochelle, Bonaventure, Albert the Great), and finding its best interpretation in the philosophy of Thomas Aquinas. His solutions are ordered according to his essential concept of active and potential intellect, and then according to its ontic status, the object of intellection, intellect's acts, its relation to body, and angelic and God's intellect.

MEMORY AND REMINISCENCE IN MEDIEVAL TRADITION OF COMMENTING ARISTOTLE

The research concentrate mainly on three 13th-century authors: Albert the Great, Thomas Aquinas and Peter of Auvergne. The purpose of the research is to show the functioning of threefold ways of commenting on Aristotle's treatise "On memory and reminiscence". From Albert the Great's paraphrase and *ad litteram* commentary to disputed questions of Peter of Auvergne, tending to decipher one and true *intentio Aristotelis*, the authors introduced various problems related to memory and reminiscence. For example - the problem of inner sense, intellectual memory, solutions concerning the art of remembering.

Dr. Michał Zembrzusi works in the Department of the History of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy. His Doctoral Thesis is devoted to the problem of inner senses in Thomas Aquinas' account. He is interested in ancient and medieval epistemology, philosophical anthropology and metaphysics. He has translated some of Aquinas' works, he is also a laureate of Professor Mieczysław Gogacz Gold Award.

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For general enquiries about our research and collaboration possibilities please contact Dean's Representative for Research and International Relations:

Dr. Hab. Grzegorz Bugajak

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WITH OUR READERS!**

STVDIA PHILO- SOPHIAE CHRIST- IANAЕ



Studia Philosophiae Christianae is a quarterly (until 2010 - biannual) published since 1965, currently by the Institute of Philosophy at Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw. It publishes original, peer reviewed contributions in various fields of philosophy. Our main language is Polish, but in 2010-2011 29% papers were in English, and this is a growing tendency.



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