



## Introduction to the issue

### *Paris VIII (1968–2018): 50 years of philosophical commitments*

The current issue of *Argument: Biannual Philosophical Journal* (vol. 8/2) is dedicated to the French authors connected with Department of Philosophy at Paris University VIII Vincennes — Saint-Denis, whose origins reach back to the events of May 1968. In the column *Translations into Polish* we attempt an account of the philosophical discussions but also the civic engagement of architects of this environment.

The anthology of Paris VIII is preceded by five original papers not related to the lead theme itself. The column *Articles and treatises* is opened by the paper *The city as experience and inspiration: Critical reflections on urbanity in contemporary art* by Zoltán Somhegyi, who reflects on the relation between art, aesthetics and the urban experience. While analysing a number of artistic creations, he wonders how the city's experience in its various forms affects artistic creativity and, at the same time, how the activity of artists in cities is expressed and how it modifies the way the inhabitants live. In Pavel Hons's text entitled *Are we Hindus? Religion in Tamil Dalit discourse*, the author considers the problematic situation of the Dalits (the untouchables) in contemporary India. He focuses primarily on the social role of religion and the role it has played in the ongoing process of Dalits emancipation. Another paper entitled "*Terrestrial identity*" as grounded relationality: *A comparative study of contemporary Chinese and Hawaiian sources* compares two philosophies derived from completely different cultures. Sydney Morrow performs a comparative analysis of these intellectual traditions in the context of what she herself calls "the terrestrial identity", the category including relational entities, accommodating place, space and memory. She aims to flesh the original theory of relationality. The article by Jan Bigaj *Wykład w lżejszej formie w tekście Metafizyki* [A light-hearted lecture in a text of *Metaphysics*] offers a new interpretation of fragments from the Zeta book of Aristotle's *Metaphysics* that concerns biological generation. Bigaj reflects on the alleged atmosphere of a lecture at the Lyceum, which in his commentary takes on a mild, or even frivolous shape. Adriana Zimnowoda in her paper *Jerzy Stempowski i Lew Szestow — egzystencjalizm spowity wschodnią melancholią. Krótka historia przyjaźni* [Jerzy Stempowski and Lev Shestov — existentialism imbued with eastern melancholy. A short history of a friendship] presents the history of the

friendship of this excellent Polish essayist and famous Russian existentialist philosopher, showing how Shestov thought is reflected in Stempowski's literary creation and his personal choices.

The above mentioned major column of the current issue, *Translations into Polish*, opens with Jean-François Lyotard's article entitled *Reguły i paradoksy* [Rules and paradoxes] (trans. Sonia Kopeć and Adrian Leguérinel). The following text is a lecture *Uwarunkowania nowości w filozofii* [Conditioning newness in philosophy] (trans. Halina Chmiel-Bożek) by Cornelius Castoriadis. The next paper by François Châtelet is entitled *Szkic stanowiący wstęp do badań o Państwie wiedzy* [A sketch as a prelude to research on the State of Knowledge] (trans. Ewelina Mitera). Driss Bellahçène in *Niebezpieczna pobożność* [The dangerous piety] (trans. Daniel Pański) discusses the delicate problem of religious fundamentalism in Islam. Alain Brossat's text entitled *Szczęście nie jest częścią przyjemności* [Happiness is not a part of pleasure] (trans. Łukasz Świerczyński) provides an interesting study of the relationship between happiness and pleasure. The column devoted to the issue's lead theme concludes up with a sort of manifesto entitled *Powszechna deklaracja niezależności uniwersytetów* [Universal declaration of independence of Universities] (trans. Przemysław Szczur). A comprehensive discussion of all these translations can be found in the introductory paper to the column by Luc Leguérinel.

In the *Polemics and debates* column we publish two review articles. The first article, *Between nothing and a promise of eternity. Reading Alain Badiou's Black: The brilliance of a non-color* by Kristina Khutsishvili, is an interesting polemic with Alain Badiou's book. The second one, *Od Fichtego do Kanta i z powrotem. Kilka uwag o Marku J. Siemka idei transcendentalizmu* [From Fichte to Kant and back. Several considerations on Marek J. Siemek's idea of transcendentalism] by Wojciech Hanuszkiewicz, is a discussion on Siemek's important and influential book entitled *Idea transcendentalizmu u Fichtego i Kanta. Studium z dziejów filozoficznej problematyki wiedzy* [The idea of transcendentalism in Fichte and Kant. A study in the history of the philosophical problematic of knowledge].

In *Reports*, Andrzej Serafin presents the summer school initiative called *Akademia Platowska w Lanckoronie* [Plato's Academy in Lanckorona], the second edition of which took place in September 2018.

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