

International Colloquium in Contemporary Philosophy and Culture

Home and Journey around the Globe

May 30-June 1, 2019

Location: Ala-Too International University,

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

(in conjunction with the Society for Philosophy as Global Conversation)



On the Idea of the Colloquium

The first record of a conjoined usage of *philos* and *sophia* is in Herodotus' *Histories* from 5th century BC. Herodotus uses the verb *philosophhein* (φιλοσοφῆων) broadly in the sense of desire to find out and links it to “traveling much of the world for the sake of seeing it” (I, 30). In a similar vein, the latter Heidegger relates *way* (*Weg*) and *waying* (*wägen*, *Bewegung*) to language and thinking, as well as to the *Tao* of *Laozi*. Heidegger has also designated the fundamental motivation for any thinking and philosophizing with terms like *the uncanny* (*Unheimlichkeit*) and *homelessness* (*Heimatlosigkeit*), and he has likewise discussed its ends in terms of *home* (*Heim*) and *homecoming* (*Heimkehr*).

In this sense, philosophy can be seen as a journey around the globe, which is at once also homecoming. In this homecoming journey, philosophy takes the form of a conversation, much like the one described by Herodotus between Solon and Croesus at Sardis on the meaning of happiness, or like the one of exchange of differences of significance on the level of culture. Thus, understanding philosophy as conversation means embracing differences of opinions that come from all levels of society and culture to contribute to productive debates, insightful reflections, and practical solutions.

This conference will likely be the first of its kind in Central Asia in the following sense: many of the presenters will be philosophers and scholars in related disciplines from Europe, America, Asia, and Central Asia, whose work in some way directly bears on questions that fall within the scope of the “humanities and social sciences” broadly conceived. The aim of the conference is to bring together an international group of scholars to participate in a “global conversation” on topics that explore cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary questions

with philosophical import. In this sense, the topics of interest to the colloquium can be related but not limited to,

- Phenomenology, existential philosophy, post-structuralism
- Metaphilosophy, pragmatism, and communicative action
- Language, thinking, and technology
- Critical theory, literature, and art
- Ethics, religion, and spirituality
- Power, politics, and economics
- Race, gender, sexuality, identity
- Refugees, strangers, and outcasts
- Community building, inclusion, and integration
- Human person, health, and self-creation
- Globalization, multi-culturalism, and the meaning of nationality
- Trans- and cross-cultural horizons
- Environment, common concerns, and common solutions
- Radicalization, Populism, and Extremism
- Poverty, Gentrification, and Biopolitics

*Conference organizers will consider conference presentations for publication (after a review process) in the second edition of *Global Conversations: An International Journal in Contemporary Philosophy and Culture*, an online open-access journal inaugurated after the first conference of the Society for Philosophy as Global Conversation in March, 2018.

*Target Audience: Philosophers and faculty from related disciplines (e.g. humanities, literature, art, journalism) with an interest in cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary dialogue and research

*Conference Fee: None.

* An optional cultural program and conference dinner will be organized.

* Kyrgyzstan has a visa free regime for citizens of 60 countries, and many others could obtain visas at Manas International Airport in Bishkek or online. More information is available at http://evisa.e-gov.kg/get_information.php?lng=en

* For inquiries about travel to Bishkek, please contact Jon Mahoney at jmahoney@ksu.edu

Abstract Submissions

We invite abstract-proposals within 300 words at global.conversations.ph@gmail.com by March 1, 2019 (with early submission encouraged).