International Conference

Shared Commitment in Crisis
Social Ontology, Engagement, and Politics

The main social-ontological issues – collective intentionality, group agency, shared action, joint commitment, plural self-awareness, collective responsibility, among others – are tied in myriad ways to collective engagement. Widely accepted claims tell us that social ontology assumes the differentiation between ontological considerations and political positions, meaning that the examination of social facts and social institutions ought not be normative. However, social reality is nevertheless a result of human group agency and is inevitably subject to normative determinations. Thus, social-ontological research opens new perspectives onto how our world could be different. Therefore, as one of its main goals, this conference seeks to re-examine the idea of shared commitment as engagement with the world. To be engaged does not only mean not being constitutionally indifferent to one’s world, but could surpass the notion of commitment as an explanation for what holds a group together or even how it constitutes itself at all.

The development of social ontology in recent decades – from Searle, Tuomela, Bratmann, Gilbert, and Pettit (the “Big Five” of social ontology), through the analytic examination of the phenomenological notion of intentionality and self-awareness (Schmid), and exploration of social sciences through the ontological lens (Guala), up to the recent investigations in social cognition and philosophy of mind – offers us a rich theoretical apparatus for researching the ontological account of engagement, commitment, rights and demands.

© Photograph of Artillery, 1911. Oil on canvas by Roger de La Fresnaye. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Belgrade, 28-29 September 2018
28. September

09:00 – 09:15 Welcome Address
Petar Bojanić
Rastko Jovanov

09:15 – 10:00 Raimo Tuomela:
Social Corporations as Social Institutions

10:00 – 10:20 Discussion
(chair: Rastko Jovanov)

10:20 – 10:50 Katja Crone:
What we-perspectives are grounded in

10:50 – 11:10 Discussion
(chair: Rastko Jovanov)

Coffee break

11:30 – 12:00 Magali Bessone
The Social Ontology of Racialized Groups: Political, not Metaphysical

12:00 – 12:20 Discussion
(chair: Sanja Bojanić)

12:20 – 12:50 Niels de Haan
A Taxonomy of Prospective and Retrospective Moral Responsibility in Collective Contexts

12:50 – 13:10 Discussion
(chair: Sanja Bojanić)

Lunch

14:30 – 15:00 Francesco Guala
Rescuing Ontological Individualism

15:00 – 15:20 Discussion
(chair: David Schweikard)

15:20 – 15:50 Mark Losoncz
Being Connected – Being Engaged?

15:50 – 16:10 Discussion
(chair: David Schweikard)

Coffee break

16:30 – 17:00 Akos Sivadi
Fictional Communities? Social Ontology and the Mental

17:00 – 17:20 Discussion
(chair: Igor Cvejić)

17:20 – 17:50 Nenad Smokrovic
Argumentation and Group Agency

17:50 – 18:10 Discussion
(chair: Igor Cvejić)

20:00 Dinner

29. September

09:00 – 09:45 Hans Bernhard Schmid
Aristotle on Collective Well-Being

09:45 – 10:10 Discussion
(chair: Rastko Jovanov)

10:10 – 10:40 Rastko Jovanov
Esprit de Corps and Collective Engagement

10:40 – 11:00 Discussion
(chair: Akos Sivadi)

Coffee break

11:20 – 11:50 David Schweikard
The Reach of Commitment – The Normative Structure of International Cooperation

11:50 – 12:10 Discussion
(chair: Akos Sivadi)

12:10 – 12:40 Petar Bojanić
What Is an Act of Engagement?

12:40 – 13:00 Discussion
(chair: Akos Sivadi)

Lunch

14:30 – 15:00 Maj Tuomela
Rational Social Trust

15:00 – 15:20 Discussion
(chair: Mark Losoncz)

15:20 – 15:50 Igor Cvejić
Engaged Acts and Plural Agency: An Example of Compassion

15:50 – 16:10 Discussion
(chair: Mark Losoncz)

Coffee break

16:30 – 17:00 Chaslav Koprivitsa
How to Think the Identity of Sports Teams

17:00 – 17:20 Discussion
(chair: Mónica Cano Abadía)

17:20 – 17:50 Sophie Loidolt
Hannah Arendt on Plurality, Action, and Forms of the ‘We’

17:50 – 18:10 Discussion
(chair: Mónica Cano Abadía)

18:10 – 18:40 Marjan Ivković, Srdan Prodanović
Commitment and Complex Domination: The Emancipatory Potential of Contingency

18:40 – 19:00 Discussion
(chair: Mónica Cano Abadía)

20:00 Dinner