

## EDITOR'S NOTES

This issue of *Philosophia* comes out in a time of great challenges and difficulties brought about by the global pandemic caused by COVID 19 which has already claimed the lives of more than three hundred thousand people and has infected over six million people worldwide as of this writing. Despite this precarious condition we continue to bring you this journal to sustain philosophical discourse and to serve as a channel for sharing philosophic thoughts. In this issue we have seven insightful articles from different areas of philosophy, one essay or commentary on the global pandemic and a book review.

The first article is on Filipino Philosophy by Feorillo P.A. Demeterio III entitled *A critical reflection on my reading and re-reading of Emerita Quito's thoughts on the underdevelopment and hope for the development of Filipino philosophy*. Demeterio tries to examine his two previous readings of Quito's thoughts of Filipino philosophy which focuses on its underdevelopment, in order to sharpen the Filipino philosophy scholars' collective diagnosis on what continue to cause the underdevelopment of Filipino philosophy and to offer more realistic pathways towards its more robust development. In the first part, Demeterio discusses Quito's four clusters of causes and hope and Demeterio's previous commentaries on such four causes and hope. He then presents his critical reflection on Quito's diagnosis and hope and his own previous commentary based on the recent developments. According to Demeterio, Quito's analysis on the underdevelopment and hope for development of Filipino philosophy is one of the first and sustained studies undertaken on the matter. And while her thoughts remain to be relevant and true, it needs to be re-read and re-contextualized to the changing times.

The next article is on political philosophy specifically on state governance by Efe Baştürk entitled *Political-theological source of the "state of exception": Re-reading sovereignty within the divine oikonomia*. Baştürk discusses the "state of exception" within the context of modern sovereignty. He argues that although it is considered within the modern paradigm of state governance, it carries a Christian context thus providing for its theological underpinning. The theological-political form of governance is called the divine oikonomia. Baştürk tries to explore this theological source of modern sovereignty in order to understand the very meaning of governance. He claims that sovereignty, and the state of exception, as the fundamental signifier of sovereignty, must be understood within the concept of the oikonomia and in the framework of political theology. Such concept of divine oikonomia within a political theology can offer new understanding in order to conceptualize the idea of sovereignty in a broader sense.

The next article is on Neo-platonic metaphysics specifically on Plotinus' metaphysics. The article *The One and differentiating principles of hypostases in Plotinus metaphysics* by Miroslav Vacura deals with the three hypostases – the one,

the intellect and the soul, and their relations which serve as the core of Plotinus' philosophical system. Dispelling some interpretations of Plotinus's metaphysics which claim that the hypostases overlap and have blurred distinction, Vacura through a careful textual analysis demonstrates that in the mature philosophy of Plotinus these hypostases are clearly defined and separated. Vacura provides an overview of the structure of Plotinus' metaphysics and briefly characterizes each of the hypostases and then discusses the relations of these hypostases and metaphysical differentiating principles. He then concludes that although some parts of Plotinus texts may be difficult to interpret and may be confusing to some readers, in Plotinus' core philosophy, the hypostases are clearly separated and defined, and they relate to each other in precisely formulated terms.

The next article is on epistemology focusing on how to address the epistemic regress problem. Husein Inusah's article entitled *The regress challenge, infinitism and rational dialectics* offers what it claims to be the best answer to the dialectical regress challenge – infinitism. But instead of utilizing it to answer the epistemic regress challenge as most proponents of infinitism do, he takes it to be addressing a dialectical regress challenge and compares it against its dialectical rivals. Inusah then shows that dialectical foundationalism, egalitarianism and some extant versions of infinitism do not offer satisfactory answers to the regress of justification because they evade the contest of meeting the sceptical challenge head-on. According to Inusah, by formulating infinitism as a social contextualist thesis it then emerges that dialectical infinitism addresses the regress challenge far better than its rivals. Inusah argues that dialectical infinitism couched as a social contextualism is the only response that answers the regress problem satisfactorily.

The next two articles are on logic and they both tackle paradoxes in logic. The first article is by Jeremiah Joven B. Joaquin entitled *Truth gaps, truth gluts, and the liar paradox*. While there are solutions to the liar paradox which preserve the standard conception of truth and the classical notion of logical validity, Joaquin expounds on the non-standard solutions, namely, the gappy solution which shows that the liar sentence is neither true nor false, and therefore unsound because any reasoning that leads to paradoxical conclusion is unsound, and the glutty solution which shows that the paradoxical conclusion is correct, but any reasoning that follows from it is invalid. Joaquin explores some ways of motivating each of these solutions and what each implies about the notions of truth and validity, and how each solves the paradox. He also highlights some of the more recent philosophical questions that could be directed against them. Joaquin thus opines that perhaps the perplexity of the paradox is its true legacy.

The second article is entitled *The blushing liar* by Franca D'Agostini and Elena Ficara which tackles the blushing liar (BL) a new paradox, similar in some respects to the Pinocchio Paradox (PP). D'Agostini and Ficara however note that while PP is debunked by the objection of fictionality, BL is more plausible because blushing is common and real. They explore the consequences of intending 'I am blushing' as a 'lie,' in the strict meaning of the term and they argue that there is no substantial difference, but the paradoxical effect is even more plausible. They also tackle whether BL and PP release metaphysical dialetheias. They conclude that the

properties involved in PP and BL do not release genuine metaphysical gluts because the events occurring in Pinocchio's or Victoria's worlds are hardly comparable to truthmakers and they lack the fundamental requisite of Liar-like contradictions.

The last article is on Chinese philosophy entitled *The word Zhen 真 in the Book of Changes: Deconstruction approach* by Agita Baltgalve. In the article Baltgalve explores the linguistic aspects of the word Zhen by paying special attention to meanings of the word based on the text version and commentary by Wang Bi 王弼 (226-249) from Wei Dynasty, classical Ten Wings (Shi yi 十翼) commentaries from the 1st mil. BC, works by scholars from Han, Tang, Song and Qing Dynasties (2nd cent. BC until 17th. cent. AD), as well as translations by Western sinologists. Baltgalve employs the semantic approach to trace origins and existing definitions of the term Zhen. She then employs the creative deconstruction approach in order to analyze the entire text, revealing atypical meanings within various schemes. Baltgalve claims that her research reveals definite, relative and indefinite meanings of the word Zhen. Within the context of Confucian morality and ethics one can discover relative meanings that depend on the context. However, the definite and relative meanings of the term do not cover the whole sense expressed by the word Zhen, thus a creative deconstruction of the hexagram lines is applied. It resulted in an indefinite, but very practical and clear indication of the concept.

As a commentary about the current global pandemic, we have included the essay entitled *Critical thinking in this time of global pandemic* by the editor of this journal Jove Jim S. Aguas. The essay focuses on the current situation and how we can respond or address the many factors or issues related to it, namely, the disease and the virus that causes it, the government protocols and guidelines, and the information and news surrounding it. The essay stresses that one way of confronting and addressing the issues related to this pandemic is by practicing mindfulness as against thoughtlessness. In this precarious times and amidst the surge of varying information, data, ideas, opinions, we need to be mindful through the practice of critical thinking. By being mindful through critical thinking we gain a proper understanding of the issues at hand and analyze and evaluate the different information and ideas about the virus and the pandemic. Ultimately we achieve freedom and liberation from ignorance, blind adherence and thoughtless conformism. The essay offers a positive outlook beyond this pandemic - if we think critically as one and act prudently as one, then we will heal as one.

We have one book review in this issue written by Juan Rafael G. Macaranas on Peter Neville Rule's *Dialogue and Boundary Learning*. This book may not be recently published – it was published in 2015, but according to Macaranas it offers valuable insights on philosophy of education. It focuses on the foundations in understanding dialogue and learning through the four philosophers that the book discusses Socrates, Martin Buber, Mikhail Bakhtin and Paulo Freire. It also explores dialogue, teaching and learning in a range of contexts, situation and application. It also presents the notion of diacognition, a conceptual framework for understanding teaching and learning as moments of knowing. The book is helpful for students and professors who may be interested in traditional philosophies of education as contextualized in contemporary situations.

Amidst this pandemic may we be consoled by the superiority of the things of the mind over the transitory nature of mundane things. We hope that scholars of philosophy will find this issue with all its contents, a source of valuable philosophical insights. It was quite a challenge to work and complete this issue given the anxiety and uncertainty that prevail during the lockdown. May we find solace in reading these philosophical articles during this trying times.

**JOVE JIM S. AGUAS**  
*Editor*