



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

**National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens**

EST. 1837

Department of History and Philosophy of Science

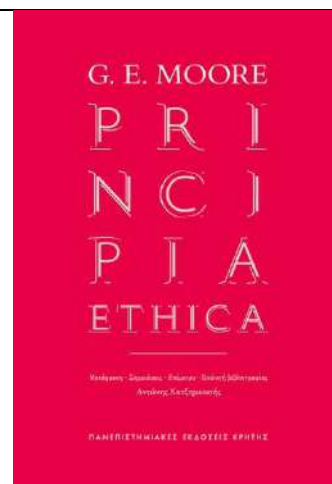
Newsletter no. 5

May-June 2024

The **Newsletter** of the **Department of History and Philosophy of Science (PHS)** aims to inform about activities of its members of staff and students. The History and Philosophy of Science is an interdisciplinary academic field, which studies science as a complex historical, social, and cultural phenomenon and highlights the philosophical dimensions of its theories and practice. It examines the philosophical, conceptual, and historical approaches to science in general, as well as to a variety of particular research fields, including the humanities and social sciences, natural sciences, psychology and cognitive sciences, life and medical sciences, mathematics and logic, and new technologies. The [faculty members](#) of the Department include some of the world experts in their respective fields, while several of the members lead or collaborate in [international research projects](#). The Department consists of three Divisions: History of Science and Technology, Philosophy and Theory of Science, and Technology, and Cognitive Science. It offers the sole [undergraduate programme](#) of studies on History and Philosophy of Science in Greece and 9 [postgraduate programmes](#) of studies in both Greek and English, which cover a wide range of philosophical topics, the history of science and technology, studies in society, science and technology, digital humanities and augmented textual studies, and cognitive psychology. PHS is among the highest rated of humanities departments in Greece, in terms of international research citations.

Awards and Distinctions

- The Society of Greek Translators of Literature and the Constantine and Artemis Kyriazis Foundation honored prominent translators from Greece and abroad for their substantial contribution to letters, education, and culture. **Anthony Hatzimoysis**, Professor of Modern Philosophy of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, was awarded the “**Prize for the Translation of Important World**



Heritage Works into Greek” for his excellent translation of G. E. Moore's work [Principia Ethica](#). The annual awards ceremony took place on 29 May 2024 at



Awards ceremony, Prof. Anthony Hatzimoysis

the Goethe-Institut in Athens. *Principia Ethica* is a landmark in the history of moral philosophy. Published in 1903, Moore's text set the framework within which philosophical thought developed throughout the 20th century, and influenced great thinkers from John Keynes Maynard in the field of economic theory to Virginia Woolf in the field of modern literature. Through an exhaustive discussion of the concept of the good, the value of interpersonal relationships, and the experience of art, the *Principia Ethica* set the terms in which major controversies in philosophy are articulated to this day.

Past Events – Talks

- Professor **Chrysostomos Mantzavinos** was invited by the Karl Popper Foundation, University of Klagenfurt to give a talk on “[Die Verfassung der Wissenschaft](#)” on 18 April 2024.
- Professor **Stavros Drakopoulos** gave a talk on “The Economics of Trade Unions: History, Methodological Problems and Issues of Interdisciplinarity” in the framework of the [27th Annual Conference of the European Society for the History of Economic Thought \(ESHET\)](#), which took place in Graz, Austria, 9-11 May 2024.
- On 13 May 2024 a workshop on the topic “Theistic Metaphysics” took place in the new building of our department. The workshop was organized by Dr **Nicolaos Asproulis** (Volos Academy for Theological Studies), Prof. **Stelios Virvidakis** (Department of History and Philosophy of Science) and Dr **Michalis**

Filippou (Department of History and Philosophy of Science). Over the course of the workshop three main speeches were delivered. Prof. **Dean Zimmerman** (Rutgers University, USA), who had been invited especially for the workshop, delivered a speech on “Divine Location and the Inheritance of Spatial Structure”. In his talk he defended the coherence of the notion of *divine omnipresence* by drawing upon various philosophical theories about the structure of physical space. Dr **Alejandro Perez** (University of Louvain) tried to make sense of the Christian rite of Holy Communion (Eucharist) by exploiting the conceptual resources of Lowe's metaphysical system (especially his *four-category ontology*). Dr **Filippou** put forth a novel solution to the *Logical Problem of the Trinity* that takes into consideration some recent debates in the area of meta-

ontology. Dr **Dionysios Skliris** and Dr **Nicolaos Asproulis** delivered two shorter speeches. Dr Skliris put Zimmerman's paper into a broader historical perspective by discussing divine omnipresence in patristic thought and Dr Asproulis touched upon the relevance of contemporary analytic philosophy to orthodox theology taking as a case in point the problem of *Personal Identity and the Survival of Death*. Each speech was followed by a lively and detailed exchange of arguments among participants and attendees.



Participants, 'Theistic Metaphysics'

- The Research Programme πρόγραμμα **Go-JuST** (PI: Assoc. Professor **Stathis Arapostathis**) organised successfully its 3rd (23 May), 4th (6 June), and 5th (13 June 2024) Webinar involving the following speakers: **Graham Duttfield** (University of Leeds), **Sophia Chao** (University of Sidney), **Andrea Borghini** (University of Milan), and **Enrico Bonadio** (City, University of London).

- Assistant Professor **Katerina Vlantoni**, in collaboration with **Athanasios Barlagiannis**, Research Fellow in the Modern Greek History Research Centre at the Academy of Athens, presented a paper in the Interna-

tional Conference **Media and Epidemics: Technologies of Science Communication and Public Health, 20th-21st Centuries**. The conference took place in the University of Bucharest, **30-31 May 2024**. Their paper was entitled "**The public destiny of the scientific research: the case of an observational study about in-hospital mortality of COVID-19 patients in Greece**".

- A group of students from the Department of History and Philosophy of Science visited the Eugenides Foundation on Saturday, on 8 June 2024, with their instructor, Dr *Emmanouil Protonotarios*, and watched the screening "The Center of the World... from the Geocentric system to the expansion of the Universe", as part of the Physics course of the spring semester of the first year.



Planetarium, Eugenides Foundation

- Assoc. Professor **Petros Bouras-Vallianatos** gave an invited talk on "**Palliative care in pre-modern medicine: The case of Alexander of Tralles**" in the framework of the conference **Illness, Health and Healing in Late Antiquity**, which took place at the University of Castilla-La Mancha in Toledo, Spain, **10-11 June 2024**.

Forthcoming Events – Talks

- Professor Anthony Hatzimoysis will give a keynote talk in the framework of the [World Congress of Philosophy](#) in Rome (1 August 2024). He will also participate in the following round table: “Shared Human Sensibility”.

- The Department of History and Philosophy of Science announces the [8th Panhellenic Conference on Philosophy of Science](#) to be held in Athens on 5-7 December 2024. The thematic sections of the conference include all areas of philosophy of science (general philosophy of science, philosophy of special sciences), as well as areas of philosophy (metaphysics, epi-

stemology, ethics, philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, history of philosophy, political philosophy) to the extent that they are related to issues concerning science. The conference invites submissions for contributed papers and symposia and is open to all members of the academic community, including PhD candidates and postgraduate students. Presentations can be in Greek or English. There is no registration fee. Confirmed invited speakers: **Stéphanie Rupy** (Ecole normale supérieure (ENS Paris) and Université PSL) **James Ladyman** (University of Bristol).

Publications of Members of the Department

- **Greek translation of Monograph:**

Mindell, David, [Τα ρομπότ μας, οι εαυτοί μας: Η ρομποτική και οι μύθοι της αυτονομίας](#), transl. Bella Spyropoulou, scientific advisor: Telis Tympas, Athens: Angelus Novus.

Abstract: A Greek translation of *Our Robots, Ourselves: Robotics and the Myth of Autonomy* (Viking, 2015) by David Mindell, professor of the history of technology at the MIT Science, Technology, Society (STS) Department (Frances and David Dibner Professor of the History of Engineering and Manufacturing), and professor of aeronautics at the same institution, is now available (Angelus Novus, 2024, translated by Bella Spyropoulou). It includes an introduction by Aristotle Tympas, professor of history of technology at PHS, NKUA and director of the NKUA STS program, on the

unique contribution of professor Mindell to the understanding of both robots and artificial intelligence.



- **Articles:**

- Bouras-Vallianatos, P. 2024. [“Two Byzantine Medical Texts in Verse Translated into English: Diagnosis and Treatment of Disease”](#), *Deltos* 52: 23-31.

- Drakopoulos, S. 2024. "[Non-orthodox Economic Approaches to Labor Unions and Union Leadership](#)", in *Encyclopedia of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Spirituality*, Joan Marques (ed.), Berlin: Springer.
- Ierodiakonou, K. 2024. "[Colour changes in pseudo-Aristotle's *De mirabilibus auscultationibus*](#)", in *The Aristotelian Mirabilia and Early Peripatetic Natural Science* (eds. A. Zucker, R. Mayhew and O. Hellman), New York: Routledge, 265–87.
- Ierodiakonou, K. 2024. "[Are the same thoughts shared by all people?](#)", in *New Essays on Aristotle's Organon* (eds. A. P. Mesquita and R. Santos), New York: Routledge 2024, 50–69.
- Ierodiakonou, K. 2024. "[Eustratius of Nicaea on analysis](#)", in *Aristoteles-Kommentare und ihre Überlieferung Wichtige Etappen von den Antike bis in die frühe Neuzeit* (eds. C. Brockmann, D. Deckers, S. Valente), Berlin: De Gruyter 2024, 293–312.
- Tzafestas, E. 2023. "[Evolution of Attraction for Cooperation](#)", *Proceedings of WIVACE2023, Italian Conference on Artificial Life and Evolution*
- **Book reviews:**
 - Drakopoulos, S. Review of: Peter Earl (2022), *Principles of Behavioral Economics: Bringing Together Old, New and Evolutionary Approaches*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. In: [Review of Political Economy](#) (2024).
- **Other Publications:**
 - Δρακόπουλος, Σ. και Ι. Κατσελίδης. 2024. "[Adam Smith](#)", *Ξενοφών* 8.

Calls for Applications

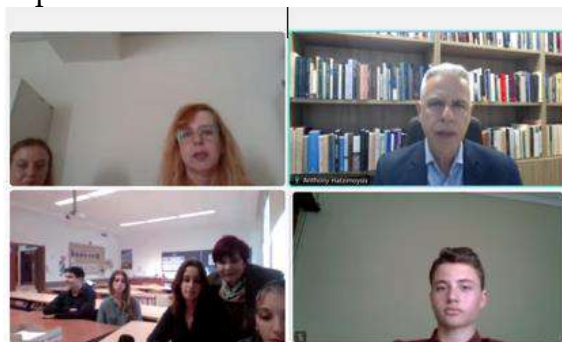
- Candidates may submit applications for the [MSc in History and Philosophy of Science and Technology](#) (Language of instruction is Greek) offered by the Department of History and Philosophy of Science The deadline is by **13 September 2024**. More information [here](#).
- Candidates may submit applications for the [The Athens MA in Ancient Philosophy](#) (Language of instruction is English) offered by the Department of History and Philosophy of Science in collaboration with Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the University of Patras, and the University of Crete. The deadline is by **10 July 2024**. More information [here](#).

Panhellenic Student Competition

- The **1st Panhellenic Student Competition of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science** with the theme: "**From understanding to addressing the environmental crisis: the contribution of the history and philosophy of science and technology**", with the approval of the Ministry of Education, Religion and Sports, was successfully completed. The competition was addressed to students of the 2nd and 3rd grades of Gymnasium and the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades of Lyceum in Greece and the Greek diaspora. The **aim**

of the competition was to understand the students the ways in which the history and philosophy of science and technology can contribute to understanding and addressing the environmental crisis at local, European, and global levels. The competition committee, consisting of the Chair of the Department, Professor **Anthony Hatzimoysis**, the Vice-Chair, Professor **Telis Tympas**, the Associate Professor **Eleni Gemtou**, the Associate Professor **Michalis Sialaros**, the Assistant Professor **Eleni Manolakaki**, and Dr. **Georgia Fermeli**, Special Teaching Staff of the Department, supported all the processes of the competition and evaluated the submitted works. The total submissions from the schools were interesting and noteworthy. The students developed their concerns about the contribution of the history and philosophy of science and technology in addressing the environmental crisis, investigated the causes, and proposed solutions for addressing it through literature study as well as their own experience and daily life. Overall, the committee awarded three prizes as follows: - The **1st PRIZE for High Schools** was awarded to the student **Andronikos Apostolidis** of the 3rd grade of the **2nd High School of Neapoli Thessaloniki**, with coordinating teacher Mrs. **Agoritsa Kalantzi**. - The **1st PRIZE for Senior High Schools** was awarded

for the group work of students: **Athanasia Doikou**, **Iliana Panagopoulou**, **Katerina Tsourlaki**, and **Hector Flevaris** of S6 (2nd grade) of the **European School Brussels III**, with coordinating teacher Mrs. **Katerina Mandroni**. - The **2nd PRIZE for Senior High Schools** was awarded for the group work of students: **Paraskevas Mytzithras**, **Mariza Paralika**, **Achilleas Sabatakos**, and **Vasileia Symeonidou** of the **2nd grade of the Vocational School of the American Farm School** of Thessaloniki, with coordinating teacher Mrs. **Angeliki Kosta**. For each prize, apart from the relevant commemorative certificates, a tablet and books on the history and philosophy of science and technology were offered. Participation certificates were also given to all participating students, teachers, and schools in the competition. The **award ceremony** of the competition took place online on **20 June 2024**, where students and teachers had the opportunity to present their works and share their experiences.



Snapshot from the online award ceremony of the competition

Completed Doctoral Theses

- **Goungor, Filia Maria.**

Title: [The influence and interpretation of the work of Karl Marx in the Japanese](#)

[economic thought of the early 20th century: theoretical study and comparison with the parallel “trend” in](#)

[Poland](#).

Language: English

Supervisor: Prof. Stavros Drakopoulos

Date: 2023.

Abstract: This study focuses on the influence of Marxism on Japanese economic thought in the early 20th century. Marxism significantly influenced the development of Japanese economic thought, and many thinkers turned to it for solutions to the problems that emerged in the country. Japan, having only opened its borders in 1856, found itself during the Meiji period (1868-1912), experiencing rapid social, political and economic changes and challenges, which became particularly evident in the Taishō (1912-1926) and Shōwa (1926-1989) periods. In this context, Japanese thinkers dealt with a wide range of issues, producing analyses of a high theoretical level. This study examines some of the arguments developed within three broad themes. The first concerns the arguments developed in the context of the so-called “Debate on Japanese capitalism”, which took place in the late 1920s and continued through the 1930s. The Debate is considered the apex of pre-WWII Marxist Japanese economic thought. The second theme refers to the attempt of some thinkers to link morality with Marxism. Finally, the third theme concerns the “National Question”, which is analyzed mainly through the examples of Takahashi Kamekichi and Takabatake Motoyuki. Beyond these issues, this research includes a brief comparative study of the examples of Japan and Poland, as the spread of Marxism in the two countries, and the “similarity” of the

challenges (economic, national, social and political) they faced during the period under study are of particular interest.

• **Panoutsopoulos, Grigorios.**

Title: [Planning CERN's Large Hadron Collider: An Entanglement of Physics, Technology and Diplomacy.](#)

Language: English

Supervisor: Prof. Theodore Arabatzis

Date: 2023.

Abstract: The dissertation delves into the planning phase of one of the most iconic scientific instruments ever conceived: the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN. This investigation focuses on the period spanning from 1984, when the concept of the LHC began to take form, to 2000, marking the commencement of its construction. By unveiling the intricacies of the design and realization process of such a monumental instrument, we can discern significant shifts in scientific objectives, technical requisites and the discourse surrounding it. Moreover, this exploration elucidates the profound connections between these aspects and the broader historical landscape. By reexamining the history of High Energy Physics (HEP) through the prism of scientific instrumentation and its material culture, numerous compelling facets of the scientific endeavor emerge. Thus, this approach sheds new light on the fundamental question of why and how scientific instruments are developed within the framework of Big Science, offering fresh perspectives and insights into this complex interplay.

• **Raptis, Konstantinos.**

Title: [The integration of computers in medical technologies and the concept of](#)

[death.](#)

Language: English

Supervisor: Prof. Telis Tympas

Dates: 2023.

Abstract: In this dissertation we present research on the integration of computers in medical technologies and its relationship with the concept of death. The concept of death has been studied as a representative indicator for broader social relations, changes and structures. Medicine and technologies used in medical practice have long been studied in their relation to attitudes towards death. Nonetheless, the integration of computers into medical practice and the fundamental changes it has brought about, especially in relation to the concept of death, have yet to be addressed from an STS and history of technology perspective. Here, research is presented on the changes of the concept of death as favored by computer integration and automation efforts in medical practice by means of the exploration of two areas. Firstly, research on the emergence of distinct communities, journals and automation in medical practice is presented (ch. 3 and 4). Secondly, it is presented a comparative analysis of case studies on two automation attempts of medical diagnosis in which the first (CT) was successfully established (ch. 5) while the second (Pap test) did not (ch.6). The research focused on the early days of this process, from the mid-50s to the end of the 70s, arguing that it is during these periods of introduction of new technologies where it is more suitable to approach the subject from an STS and History of Technology perspective and

to resist technological determinism effectively. Finally, utilizing the concept of death, as this has long been studied in sociology and cultural studies, we aim to offer new perspectives on STS approaches on the computer – society relationship, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, we attempt to shed new light on the understanding of the death – society relationship by way of an STS informed approach to computer integration on medical practices.

• **Spiliopoulos, Ioannis.**

Title: [Early Wittgenstein on Sense and Value.](#)

Language: English

Supervisor: Prof. Vasso Kindi

Dates: 2023.

Abstract: Ludwig Wittgenstein's *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* (*Tractatus*) is composed out of seven main propositions where the first five of them can be seen as the steps of a process that reaches its climax in proposition 6. Thus, the first five propositions of the book are like five branches (each containing further sub-branches etc) that all lead to proposition 6, the proposition that states the essence of language through the notion of the general propositional form. That is, all the propositions up to 6 can be seen as the trunk of a tree that has five branches attached to it: propositions 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5 where each of these five branches concerns the application of the notion of the general propositional form to specific kinds of propositions. This dissertation is composed of two main parts: Part A (Sense) concerns the trunk of the tree together with the minor branches (6.1, 6.2, 6.3). In Part A I will present an overview of Wittgenstein's

conception of language, logic and philosophy, a conception that culminates in his proposed logical notation and the notion of the general propositional form. I will provide an analysis of this notion as also of the main tenets and presuppositions that lead Wittgenstein to it. In Part B (Value) I will present an analysis of the two major branches of the tree (6.4's and 6.5's) that deal with the idea of (absolute) value through a discussion of topics such as: the ethical notions that appear in the *Tractatus* (e.g., the good

or bad exercise of the will, moral reward/punishment, etc), the ethical prototype -the prototype for the notion of the good-, implicit in the *Tractatus*, the problem of solipsism and the contrast between the mystical and the scientific tendencies inherent in the book. Finally, I will provide an analysis of Wittgenstein's "*Lecture on Ethics*" and a discussion of the relationship between early Wittgenstein and Immanuel Kant as far as the ethical and its expression in language is concerned.

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This **Newsletter** was prepared by Assoc. Professor Petros Bouras-Vallianatos

The **Newsletter's website** is maintained by Professor Christos Papatheodorou

To register, please email to pbourasval@phs.uoa.gr

The **next Newsletter** is scheduled to be published in **early October 2024**. Please send your news to pbourasval@phs.uoa.gr by **27 September 2024**.