

EDITORIAL

MEΘEXIS Journal is aiming to publish research articles dealing with the various aspects related to values in their connections with spirituality. There are many approaches on values, made from diverse perspectives and conceptual frames, but the focus of this Journal is on how values are linked with and backgrounded by spirituality.

The impact of values in the world of today is more visible than before, due to recent global evolutions and crisis. If no more than three decades ago, future globalized world was seen as a big village sharing common core values, nowadays things are quite different. Now is more than obvious that attempts to uniform global values are mere illusions. But this evidence is a very good thing. Of course, distinct cultural and religious values can produce tensions and conflicts among people and communities, but this always happened in history. Yet, the way we are communicating now and the unprecedented mobility is a great chance to better understand the core values of each cultural and spiritual horizon and bridging cultures, communities and people. And, as much, a chance to learn from the wisdom of cultural and spiritual traditions, from the way that they are putting in play values.

Spirituality, in the particular forms or practices, in the specific ways of representing human, world or ultimate reality, is an invaluable resource of practical wisdom, so much needed in dealing with today crisis, moral, social, economic, ecologic or pandemic. A result of millennia of dealing with human scopes and human limited ability to reach them, spirituality provides the background for core values of the cultural and social horizons.

For these reasons, its critical to investigate how spirituality shaped the values of today cultures, communities, or influenced us as individuals. Institute for the Study of Values and Spirituality, publisher of the Journal, developed such investigations in the last decade. There were organized conferences and seminaries, it was made field research in different parts of the world, with written and media outcomes. This includes co-foundation and the developing of

International Research into the Philosophical and Theological Work of St. Gregory Palamas, or the production of a very successful documentary, *An American Experience of Romanian Hesychasm*. Methexis Journal is intended to be a platform for further promoting this research approach and to catalyze new ways of investigation.

Inaugural Issue

First issue of MEΘEXIS has two research focuses. First section includes four papers inquiring the relationship between *values*, *spirituality* and *transcendence*.

Tone Svetelj in *Repairing or Embracing Human Imperfection?* is questioning the search for the fullness of human existence: how to discover a meaningful life within the boundaries of an imperfect human nature? Jove Jim S. Aguas, in *Gabriel Marcel on Creative Fidelity, Hope, and Transcendence*, discuss Marcel's notions of creative fidelity and hope as foundation of our relationship with our fellow men and the transcendent and mysterious being. Jānis Tālvāldis Ozoliņš is evaluating, in *Modern Moral Philosophy and its Problems*, the apparent failure of modern moral philosophical theories to provide any adequate guidance in moral decision-making, and the reasons for that. Maxim Mikhalev, in *Civilization Borderlands as Spiritual Diversity Specially Protected Areas*, provides an account on his field research on the twilight zones along civilization contact lines, those having the ability to tap wires from the depths of unknown and transform the unborn images of the 'elusive Other'.

The second section includes papers presented at a Workshop co-organized by the Iași Center of the Council for Research in Values in Philosophy, George Mason University (U.S.A.) and Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași (Romania) on June 26, 2021. Event's topic was *Fear, Weakness, Uncertainty. Time of Pandemic*, participants debating on how has the pandemic affected the way in which we think about ourselves, our societies, our faith traditions. In this issue were included some of the contributions to this vivid and insightful debate. Jānis Tālvāldis Ozoliņš proposes a discussion on *The Politics of the Pandemic and the Rise of Authoritarianism in Australia*, Thomas Menampampil is evaluating *Compassion in Time of Crisis as Best Expression of Intercultural Concern*, Ernest Beyaraza discuss *Fear, Weakness, Uncertainty in the African Experience*.

We included also shorter accounts on the critical time of pandemic, powerful *reflections* came from and in the life-threatening moments of pandemic (also presented during the workshop). Asha Mukherje expresses *the emotional time of the terrible pandemic wave in India*, Umut Asanova seeks *an anti-fear solution during pandemic crisis: philosophy role in empowerment of intellectual courage*, and Anthony Savari Raj offers an optimistic message in *Crossing Borders in the Sky: Reflections on the Vertical Frontiers of Cultures*.

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