



**Slovak Philosophical Association at Slovak Academy of Sciences  
and Institute of Philosophy of Slovak Academy of Sciences**



**in cooperation with**

**Department of Philosophy and History of Philosophy, Comenius University in Bratislava**

**Department of Philosophy, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice**

**Institute of Philosophy, University in Prešov**

**Department of Philosophy, University of St. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava**

**Department of Philosophy, Trnava University in Trnava**

**Department of Philosophy, Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica**

**invite**

# **VII. Slovak Congress of Philosophy**

## **Philosophy in a Technological World and Recurrent Social Patterns**

**October 22 – 24, 2025**

**Congress Centre of Hotel Tatra in Bratislava**



**The congress celebrates**

**80. anniversary of the foundation of the Institute of Philosophy, Slovak Academy of Sciences, public  
research institution**

**and**

**60. anniversary of the foundation of the Slovak Philosophical Society SAS, which was renamed in 1990  
to Slovak Philosophical Association at Slovak Academy of Sciences**



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The traces of human nature are steadily manifesting despite the continuously changing world and exponentially growing technological progress. History repeats itself. Can we learn enough from it? This also concerns to the education of future generations, not only in relation to using modern technology, but also regarding the recognition of basic principles that guide our lives. There is a social and civilization need for a return to philosophical questions of good, truth, responsibility, hope, dignity – not only in their epistemological and ontological dimensions, but also in the context of ethical, social, legal and environmental challenges of the contemporary world. The congress aims to provide a broad interdisciplinary space for a discussion about the current development and fate of humanity.



## **Thematic sessions**

### **1. The history of the Institute of Philosophy Slovak Academy of Sciences, public research institution and generational impulses in Slovak philosophical thought**

The session invites contributions that commemorate the 80. anniversary of the Institute (1946) and enrich perspective on its institutional formation not only through foreign influence but mainly through internal dimensions and the development of Slovak philosophical thought. The contributions might reflect on the institutionalisation of philosophy during the turbulent period of 50. and 60., the normalisation following 1968, and the pluralisation of philosophical views following 1989. We encourage contributions focusing on the analysis of the generational dynamics and relations between thinkers, who formed Slovak philosophical thought – ranging from personal ties and mentor relations to ideological tensions and controversies. We welcome contributions that overcome the dichotomy between collective responsibility attributed to certain generations of philosophers and indiscriminate optimism. The contributions can reflect on the Institute of Philosophy as a creative environment and a philosophical school in the CEE context, analyse works of important figures through the prism of generational affinity (K. Mannheim, J. Ortega y Gasset, and more), or critically examine methodological approaches employed in the Slovak philosophy in 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **2. Philosophy-Ideology-Manipulation**

Philosophy, religion, and science are (as many times in the past, so today) transformed into ideology and misused to manipulate and follow power ambitions. Is there a demarcation line between philosophy and ideology? Which factors cause the academic reflection to turn into a tool for manipulation? Can philosophy defend itself and protect the values of democracy, freedom, and humanity? How does technology, but also practices and policies influence our freedom and autonomy (stressing the importance of surveillance, control over information and manipulation)?

### **3. Environmental philosophy, critical environmentalism, and care of the world**

The session focuses on a critical reflection of global risks and challenges of the Anthropocene from the perspective of pervasive global capitalism and its core imperatives that produce structural social and environmental injustice and that conflict with sustainable development of human civilisation. We need to rethink environmental, ethical, social, and political consequences of climate change on the global industrial civilisation and the impact of technologies on the modern natural world. How can technology help or harm our efforts for a sustainable future? Can the technological and digital progress succeed and at the same time ignore our biological and natural conditions? The ethics of care can complement and enrich contemporary intellectual challenges that centre around the place of the human in the world and the nature of our current condition.

### **4. Nature and/or construction: philosophical perspectives**

The talks in this session will focus on the tension and a possible complementarity between naturalistic and constructivist approaches in the contemporary philosophy. The question of the degree to which we can understand the common starting point. To what extent can knowledge, normativity, or reality be understood as naturally given, and to what extent as a product of an active construction? This question will provide a common starting point. The session will also create space for a critical reflection of metaphysical assumptions of both approaches and connections between the two.

### **5. Teaching philosophy, teaching through philosophy**

Philosophy considerably contributes to the formation of processes of education. The questions of the scope of its innovativeness and distinctness and the scope of its ties to traditional forms of education form another creative space at the Congress. These challenges relate to anyone who teaches philosophy (not only) in the academic setting, but also to anyone who teaches through philosophy. Apart from exploring the dialogical nature of philosophy, a space opens for a critical reflection of the scope and content of philosophical knowledge as taught in the high-school setting.

### **6. Rethinking traditional philosophical categories and notions in the context of current philosophical, scientific, societal, ethical, political, and legal challenges:**

6a) Historico-philosophical reflections of traditional philosophical questions such as good, truth, responsibility, and beauty in the context of current thought and civilisation;

6b) Emancipatory and explanatory role of social sciences and humanities in dealing with the challenges of current civilisation;

6c) Technologies, digitalisation, and human existence: analysis of the impact of technologies on basic aspects of human existence (including our ability to create, communicate, and feel emotions);

Philosophical dimension of a fair distribution of technological resources and access to digital technologies.

### **7. Biopolitics and development of emergent technologies**

Emergent technologies can substantially modify basic life processes, regulate life of individuals and human population alike. The progress in gene-editing, pre-implanting genetical diagnostic, regenerative medicine, or neurobiology allows for optimisation of living organisms. This is connected to gradual change and configuration of social and political practices. Strategies are currently employed to eliminate genetic risks, to increase prevention, to introduce public health politics, and more. We invite contributions that will examine and reflect on the impact of the current bio-technological development on new bio-political strategies. The broader framework for analysis consists of relations between bio-scientific knowledge, technological innovations, and politics in the context of societal responsibility.

### **8. WORKSHOP: Artificial intelligence, achievements, and responsibility**

The workshop focuses on AI responsibility gaps (situations when an AI system causes X and someone should be responsible for X, but no one is). The special focus will be on AI achievement gaps (situations when AI seemingly achieves something, and someone should be praiseworthy for this achievement, but no one is). The workshop is open to other topics related to responsibility gaps.



**Note:** Sessions might be amended.

**Languages:** Slovak, Czech, English, Polish (but please note that this limits the accessibility of your talk, given that not all attendants speak Polish)

**Talk length:** 20 min + 10 min discussion

**Termín uzávierky prihlášok:** 20. 7. 2025

**Publication:** full-paper contributions (in Slovak, Czech or English) will be published in a peer-reviewed conference proceedings; contributions in English can be published in a peer-reviewed international journal **Philosophica Critica** 1/2026. Only active participants can publish their contributions. Instructions for authors will be sent to the accepted participants.

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**Email:** [tomas.karoly@ucm.sk](mailto:tomas.karoly@ucm.sk)

**Application Form:** <https://forms.gle/9kZrYgv5iVn5Qgk9A>

### Conference Fees:

- member SFZ: 105 €
- member SFZ - PhD student: 65 €
- non-member SFZ: 180€
- Passive participant, who is either a student, retiree, or PhD student: free

The conference fee includes organisational costs, conference materials, conference equipments, rent of the conference rooms, printed scientific proceeding from the conference, refreshments and reception.

Accommodation and meals are provided at the Tatra Hotel in Bratislava.

**Link:** <https://hoteltatra.sk>

In connection with the accommodation services booked at the Tatra Hotel, we would like to draw your attention to the possibility of a discounted rate for conference participants only. For more information on accommodation and catering please refer to the registration form.

Conference participants will pay for their accommodation **separately by contacting the hotel via e-mail:** [rezervacie@hoteltatra.sk](mailto:rezervacie@hoteltatra.sk).

In the e-mail, please indicate the password „SFZ25“.

Participants **pay for meals** (lunches and dinners) **separately by contacting SFZ at SAV email:** [tomas.karoly@ucm.sk](mailto:tomas.karoly@ucm.sk)

The fee has to be paid by August 30, 2025 to the following bank account:

**Owner:** Slovenské filozofické združenie pri SAV

**ICO:** 45759103

**Bank:** Sberbank Slovensko

**Account number:** 4001111106/3100

**BIC (SWIFT):** LUBASKBX

**IBAN:** SK04 3100 0000 0040 0111 1106

The message for the recipient should include First Name, Surname, Congresss 2025.

### Important dates:

**Abstract submission deadline:** 20. 07. 2025

**Notification:** 30. 07. 2025

**Conference fee payment:** 30. 08. 2025

**Congress:** 22. – 24. 10. 2025

**Full-paper contributions:** 30. 01. 2026

For more information, see [www.sfz.sk](http://www.sfz.sk).