

***Balkan Journal of Philosophy*, Vol. 2, Issue 1, 2010**

Reviewed by Ioan Alexandru Tofan¹

I am very pleased to announce the release of the third edition of the semestrial journal *Balkan Journal of Philosophy*, on the subject of *Trust*.

The journal proved to be interesting right from its first editions, due to its specific as well as the quality of the articles within. Firstly, it is a regional scientific journal that provides an important diagnosis of the philosophical interests from a cultural space that is continuously redefining: the Balkans. Both the interdisciplinary specific, having philosophy as a unifying approach and the fact that this way researchers who cover different geographical areas are brought together (there are many important names in the Editorial Board, such as John Norton, University of Pittsburgh, William Desmond, National University of Ireland or Marin Aiftincă, Romanian Academy) contribute on making this journal a place for dialogue and reconfiguration of an always problematic identity. At the same time, the journal is not enclosed between conventional, geographical coordinates, but configures “the Balkans” as an interlocutor in the vast landscape of the European philosophical research, as it is proven by the presence of some researchers from the West in its pages. In fact, when stating the journal’s mission, publishers expressly assume the idea of communication of different traditions and philosophical problems, performed through the act of research and philosophical questioning.

The first issue from the second volume of the journal is exemplary in terms of the assumed mission of the journal. Adam B. Seligman from Boston University discusses the relationship between trust and the fundamental concepts of social solidarity. Adolfo Garcia de la Sienna from Universidad Veracruzana discusses the Christian sides of the journal’s thematic concept from the Thomist tradition perspective. Wolfhart Henckmann from the University in München addresses the concept of trust from an anthropological perspective. Petru Bejan from the University

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in Iasi starts from the hermeneutical principle of good faith or benevolence and shows how an interpretation is impossible in the absence of an agreement between the interpreter and the author, an agreement based on trust. Based on the sociologist Harold Garfinkel's considerations, Esther Oluffa Pedersen from the University of Aarhus discusses the political implications of the phenomena of trust and develops the concept of *intentional trust*. Ivan Katzarski from the Institute of Philosophy of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences analyses the thesis of Robert Putnam and Francis Fukuyama concerning trust and social capital. Finally, Zorica Kuburic and Ana Kuburic from the University Novi Sad in Serbia carry out an empirical research regarding the distribution of trust among the population in the Balkan area.

This issue contains, as well, an interesting epistemology article, signed by Gabor Kutrovatz from the Eötvös University: *Trust in Experts: Contextual Patterns of Warranted Epistemic Dependence*. The author analyses the public's dependence on experts and the way in which an authorized position is socially accepted. The article shows that it is not a matter of "blind trust", but an argumentative mechanism in which the scientific arguments can not operate outside the rhetorical ones or outside the constraints of the social perception. The case of "social acceptance" given to the H1N1 vaccine recommended by the medical world is in this sense revelatory.

Balkan Journal of Philosophy (which can also be partly consulted at the <http://www.philosophybulgaria.org/BJP/index.htm>) offers, therefore, not only a picture of some philosophical concerns and approaches specific to the Balkans, but also an interesting view on the contemporary relevance of a classical topic.