

Nietzsche in the 21st Century, 30-31.01.2023 (Institute of Philosophy, University of Białystok, Plac NZS 1, room 108A)

Nietzsche in the Twenty-First Century

In a recent essay evaluating Nietzsche's enduring relevance, the philosopher Volker Gerhardt writes, "Despite periodic doubts, Friedrich Nietzsche does indeed belong to the great thinkers. Even though his work remained unfinished in nearly every respect, and though many of his thoughts are exhausted in exalted gestures and there is in his writings not one insight which cannot be found somewhere else – despite all this, he has become a classic figure of philosophy." Gerhardt's claim about Nietzsche's importance is qualified, if not altogether retracted, by the concessions he makes – Nietzsche is a "great thinker," yet his work reaches almost no conclusions, exhausts itself in "exalted gestures," and is wholly unoriginal in substance, albeit not in literary form. This kind of back-handed praise, or reverent ambivalence, is surprisingly common in the reception of Nietzsche. One might ask: With friends like these, does Nietzsche need enemies? If Nietzsche indeed "belongs among the great thinkers," it is important for us to show why he remains of enduring relevance over a century after his death – as an indispensable source of provocation and insight, not just as a skilled rhetorician and repackager of other people's thoughts. This conference addresses the question of the enduring relevance of Nietzsche's thought and the many different, but overlapping and interlocking, "perspectives" (e.g. psychological, ethical, political, cultural, aesthetic, epistemological, metaphysical) which he brings to bear on his own world and on the world in which we live today.

Organizers

Prof. Piotr Nowak (University of Białystok)
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Dr William Wood (University of Pardubice, Czech Republic)
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DAY 1

Opening address (9.30–9.45)

Prof. Robert Ciborowski, Rector (University of Białystok)

Keynote speaker (9.45–11.00)

Laurence Lampert, “Taking Nietzsche at his Word in the 21st Century” (Indiana University-Purdue University, USA)

I “Politics and Contemporaneity” (11.00–12.30)

Arthur Milikh, **CHAIR**

Piotr Nowak, “Fata Morgana or Nietzsche in XXth Century Poland”

Jaanus Soovali, “Nietzsche and Jordan Peterson. A Critique of Contemporaneity” (University of Tartu, Estonia)

Brian Marrin, “‘Man is an End’. Nietzsche’s Millenarian Politics” (Emory University, USA)

Zbigniew Janowski, “Illiberal Friends: Nietzsche and Mill in Praise of Inequality” (Towson University, USA)

LUNCH BREAK (12.30–13.30)

II “Problems and Perspectives” (14.00–15.15)

Piotr Nowak, **CHAIR**

Rafal Kuczynski, “Perspective of the Abyss, or the Blueprint for Relativism” (University of Bialystok)

Arthur Milikh, “Nietzsche on Women” (The Claremont Institute, USA)

Thomas Meredith, “Nietzsche’s Conscience” (Santa Clara University, USA)

III – “Passion and Affirmation” (15.30– 17.00)

Andrew German, **CHAIR**

Leo Luks, “Between Decadence and Affirmation of Life – Living on the Edge” (Estonian University of Life Sciences, Estonia)

Marta Soniewicka, “Every Passion Possesses Its Quantum of Reason – Nietzsche’s Affirmation of Passions” (Jagiellonian University, Poland)

Ondrej Sikora, “Nietzsche on *Berauschung* and Openness to Life” (University of Pardubice, Czech Republic)

Official Dinner 19.00

DAY 2

IV – “Historical Variations” 10.30– 12.00

Marta Soniewicka, **CHAIR**

Andrzej Serafin, “Nietzsche’s Plato – Plato’s Nietzsche” (Pedagogical University of Cracow, Poland)

Pawel Dybel, “Nietzsche’s Critique of Christianity” (Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland)

Jakub Jinek, “Nietzsche’s Greek State and Plato’s Best City” (Charles University, Catholic Theological Faculty, Czech Republic)

LUNCH BREAK (12.30–13.30)

Pawel Dybel, **CHAIR**

V – “Nature and Being” 14.00–15.00

Beatrix Himmelmann, “Can and Should Human Beings be Translated ‘Back into Nature’? A Nietzschean Project Revisited” (The Arctic University of Norway)

William Wood, “Nietzsche on the Cosmological Problem in *Beyond Good and Evil* 20”

Andrew German, “Nietzsche and Plato on the Judgment that ‘Being is better than Not-Being’” (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel)