

World Philosophy Day

Activities to celebrate the Day in Member States¹

1. ALBANIA

Albanian New Philosophers Network, University of Tirana

The Network published the first issue of its journal. Other activities were also organized.

International Network of Women Philosophers

Majlinda Keta, member of the International Network of Women Philosophers and Professor at the Philosophy Department of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Tirana, dedicated her article on the 'Fragile Status of Philosophy in Albanian Educational System', published as Editorial in *VIP Albanian Magazine* on 15 November 2011, to the 2011 edition of the Day.

2. ARGENTINA

Centre of Philosophy and Social Studies; International Network of Women Philosophers; Group of epistemological analysis of the Faculty of Arts of the Mar del Plata University

The celebration took place from 17 to 19 November 2011 in Mar del Plata. Several activities were organized, including symposia and roundtable discussions on the history of philosophy, philosophy of language, political philosophy, philosophy of science and ethics.

UNESCO Chair on Human Security at Blaise Pascal University (Argentina), University of Leuven (Belgium), with partners in Chile, Mexico and Spain

The UNESCO Chair on Human Security at Blaise Pascal University in cooperation with other partners in Belgium, Chile, Mexico and Spain, organized on 17 and 18 November an online Global Education Conference on the theme "Cultures in dialogue". Discussions evolved around the themes of education on human rights, freedoms and responsibilities of solidarity.

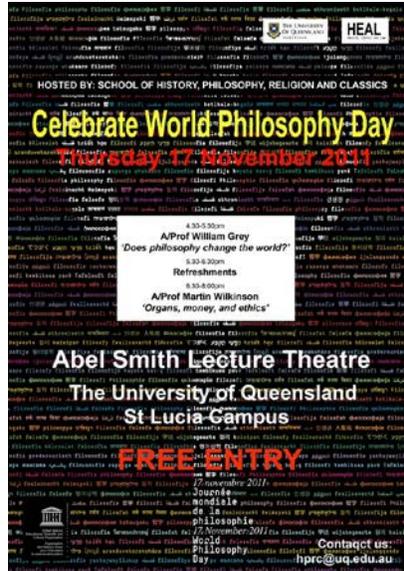
<http://globaleducation.ning.com/events/invitation/new?eventId=717180%3AEvent%3A123459>

3. AUSTRALIA

School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics at the University of Queensland

The celebration took place at the University of Queensland with the organization of two talks on the themes "Does Philosophy Change the World?" by Prof. William Grey, and "Organs, Money and Ethics", by Prof Martin Wilkinson.

¹ Based on information received from partners.



SWICH Contemporary Art Space, Ipswich, supported by Ipswich Art Gallery, Alive in Oz, LeAnne Vincent photographer, Arttime Supplies, Queensland Association for Philosophy in Schools

To celebrate the Day, Professor Gilbert Burgh of Queensland University organized a philosophy café ARTalk on the theme “Seeing our environment as art: exploring new ways of being more sustainable and resilient” which took place on 17 November at the SWICH Contemporary Art Space, Ipswich (www.theswichcas.bigpond.com.au).



4. BELGIUM

University of Leuven (Belgium), UNESCO Chair on Human Security at Blaise Pascal University (Argentina), with partners in Chile, Mexico and Spain

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The University of Leuven in cooperation with other partners in Argentina, Chile, Mexico and Spain, organized on 17 and 18 November an online Global Education Conference on the theme "Cultures in dialogue". Discussions evolved around the themes of human rights education, freedom and responsibilities related to solidarity.

<http://globaleducation.ning.com/events/invitation/new?eventId=717180%3AEvent%3A123459>

5. BENIN

Benin Philosophical Society

As every year, the Benin Philosophical Society celebrated the Day by organizing a conference.

6. CAMBODIA

Philosophical Association of Cambodia (PAC)

The Association prepared a number of activities for the celebration of the 2011 edition.

7. CANADA

Canadian Commission for UNESCO

The autumn 2011 edition of the Journal *Philosopher*, usually distributed to nearly 900 teachers of philosophy in the province of Quebec, dedicated a number of articles to the activities related to the celebration of World Philosophy Day.

UNESCO Chair in Studies of Philosophic Foundations of Justice and Democratic Society at University of Québec in Montréal (UQAM); Philosophy department and the Faculty of Humanities of UQAM; and UPop Montreal

For this edition, a round table on the theme "Welcome, Ladies?" was organized, to reflect on the role of women in philosophy. Several questions were asked during the discussions: What is the situation in 2011 and how has it evolved (or not)? Why are women a minority in philosophy? What impact does this minority status have on their studies, career, their person?

Cégep of Jonquière, Québec

On 17 November 2011, the Cégep of Jonquière organized several activities.

8. CAPE VERDE

Philosophy Department, Cape Verde University

The Department organized a Forum entitled "The value of philosophy for human emancipation" and an exhibition about philosophers on 17 November 2011, in Praia.

9. CHINA

Research Centre for Moral and Political Philosophy and School of Philosophy and Social Development at Shandong University

The School of Philosophy and Social Development and the Research Centre for Moral and Political Philosophy of Shandong University organized on 17 November a dialogue entitled "Philosophy, science and the reconstruction of humanism", and an exhibition about the spirit and significance of philosophy.

10. CZECH REPUBLIC

Philosophy Department, University of Pardubice; Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences

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Several activities were organized.

11. FINLAND

AllPh Baltic Sea Net; Finnish UNESCO ASPnet; Finnish Association for Teachers of Philosophy and Philosophy of Life; and Societas Philosophica Fennica

These networks jointly organized a philosophical essay event for secondary school students in countries around the Baltic Sea. In Finland, this event also prepared for the selection of candidates for the Philosophy Olympiad in 2012. The winners received publications related to the subjects of the competition, philosophy and world heritage. Their names were announced on 17 November, and the best essays will be published on internet at the following address: www.feto.fi.

University of Helsinki

A symposium was organized by the University of Helsinki.

12. FRANCE

Reunion Philosophy Circle

In Reunion the celebration of the 2011 edition takes place from mid-November to mid-December, with a series of events organized by the Reunion Philosophy Circle.

Several events were already held:

- Publication of the "Manifesto for a Creole thought from Reunion," with its public presentation by the Reunion Philosophy Circle, on 17 November 2011 at *l'Espace Vie étudiant* at the University of Reunion;
- Philosophical debate with children held on 17 November by the League of Human Rights in Saint-Denis;
- The "sobatkoz" on "Art Creole: the expression of a resistance?", with the Circle's president, Aude-Emmanuelle Hoareau, that took place on 19 November at the Alain Peters Library. This exchange was preceded by the screening of a documentary on the history of art in Reunion
- The "philosophical Marathon" held on 19 November at the *Theatre du Grand-Marché* in Saint-Denis.

"Alon filozofé" ... !*



La philo pour tous

Billet philosophique

Des appels ont été lancés au niveau international par l'UNESCO et par des responsables Réunionnais à célébrer le 17 novembre prochain la Journée mondiale de la philosophie. Pourquoi? Afin de contribuer à la mobilisation citoyenne pour permettre à toutes et à tous de s'approprier la pratique de la philosophie. Car c'est une science humaine à démocratiser au maximum si nous voulons construire une société plus humaine.

Le 17 octobre dernier, Moulou-Goucha, chef de la Section Sécurité humaine, démocrate et philosophe à l'UNESCO, a envoyé aux "am(e)s de la philo" dans le monde entier comme à La Réunion l'appel suivant: «*J'ai le grand plaisir de vous écrire en vue de la préparation de la célébration de la prochaine Journée mondiale de la philosophie, le jeudi 17 novembre 2011. Comme il est de coutume, de nombreux États membres célèbrent cette Journée, avec la participation des Commissions nationales, des Bureaux hors Siège, des universités, des centres de recherche, des ONG spécialisées, des lycées, etc. Nous serions très heureux que votre institution puisse s'associer à cette célébration et vous saurons gré de bien vouloir nous envoyer des informations concernant les activités que vous prévoyez d'organiser (descriptif, matériaux visuels et tout autre support).*»

Une "Journée" ... d'un mois

Le même jour, soit à un mois

Roger Ramchetty, président du C.G.E.E., Céline Sanch, une des responsables administratifs de cette institution, et Sudeil Fuma, directeur de la Chaire UNESCO à La Réunion, lors de la conférence de presse tenue l'an dernier pour annoncer la Journée mondiale de la philosophie en novembre 2010.

de cette Journée, un appel a été lancé à La Réunion par Roger Ramchetty et Sudeil Fuma pour célébrer au mieux pour la 4ème année consécutive cet événement dans notre île et lui donner un sens très fort, 200 ans après la révolte de nos ancêtres esclaves. Voici le texte de cette invitation du président du Conseil de la Culture, de l'Éducation et de l'Environnement (CCEE) et du directeur de la Chaire UNESCO à l'Université de La Réunion aux associations culturelles réunionnaises: «*Un dernier, vous avez participé activement à la célébration réunionnaise de la Journée Mondiale de la Philosophie sous l'égide de l'UNESCO. C'était la troisième année que nous le célébrons cette Journée lancée par cette instance internationale en 2002 pour promouvoir la philosophie dans le monde. Et pour la troisième fois consécutive depuis 2008, grâce à la dynamique et à la solidarité du mouvement associatif culturel et éducatif réunionnais à cette cause, la célébration de cette "Journée" a pris une ampleur comme dans aucun pays du monde car elle dure en tout un mois, avec des actions organisées dans toute l'île (voir le bilan que le CCEE va publier à ce sujet, sous forme de brochure, à l'instar des années précédentes).*»

Afin de pérenniser cet événement et de lui donner encore plus d'ampleur, à un mois de cette Journée Mondiale, nous vous invitons à y participer en prenant des initiatives dans ce sens en toute liberté pendant un mois, voire en parler à d'autres associations. La seule "contrainte" qui peut nous convenir de façon consensuelle est de ne pas vous organiser une action au même moment le jour "J", soit le jeudi 17 novembre, afin que le maximum de public puisse suivre les diverses rencontres organisées par les uns et les autres. Nous vous invitons également à préparer votre programme le plus tôt possible afin que nous puissions l'annoncer ensemble lors d'une conférence de presse au siège du CCEE quinze jours ou une semaine avant le lancement de cette "Journée" par le maximum d'associations possible. Enfin, nous vous proposons d'inscrire cette célébration dans le cadre de celle de "Année d'Elie, un combattant réunionnais de la liberté", qui est célébré le 200ème anniversaire de la révolte de nos ancêtres esclaves dans la région de Saint-Jean, à l'initiative de l'esclave forgeron Elie et ses ami(e)s. Nous vous remercions d'avance de répondre au plus vite à ces invitations et de nous dire ce que vous en pensez.

«Une école de la liberté»

Le sens que ces diverses personnalités donnent à la philosophie ne consiste pas à lui accorder une place démesurée, en faisant croire qu'elle est la réponse à tous nos problèmes. Elles n'en font pas non plus un mythe mais un outil concret et indispensable, dont chaque citoyen du monde doit pouvoir disposer pour se poser des questions sur le sens que nous voulons donner à notre existence personnelle et collective, mais aussi pour maîtriser son impulsivité et son égocentrisme. Autrement dit, c'est un moyen de cultiver l'esprit critique, la réflexion rationnelle, le sens de la responsabilité, les valeurs de la solidarité et bien d'autres atouts à valoriser pour construire une société réellement humaine. C'est pourquoi l'UNESCO appelle tous les États du monde à enseigner la philosophie aux enfants dès le plus jeune âge en faisant de cette pratique «une école de la liberté», donc un moyen de résister à toutes les formes d'injustices et d'oppressions.

Roger Ortu

(*) Merci d'envoyer vos critiques, remarques et contributions afin que nous philosophions ensemble...! redaction@temoignages.re

Aude-Emmanuelle Hoareau

Manifeste pour une pensée créole réunionnaise

Nou lé kapab majine, kalkil, viv an Rényoné

sous la direction de Aude-Emmanuelle Hoareau

Ketty Lisador
Laurent Médéa
Émeline Vidot
Brigitte Croizier
Emmanuel Caxanove
Juanito Ligdamis
Aude-Emmanuelle Hoareau



Manifeste pour une pensée créole réunionnaise

Une publication du Cercle philosophique réunionnais

13. GERMANY

German Commission for UNESCO; German Association for Philosophy

On this occasion, numerous activities took place throughout the country.

14. INDONESIA

Faculty of Philosophy of Gadjah Mada University

The Faculty of Philosophy of Gadjah Mada University organised a seminar entitled "Philosophy and Local Wisdom for Human Character Building". The seminar took place in Yogyakarta on 23 and 24 November and brought together speakers from South-East Asia, South Asia and the United States America. The objective of this seminar was to promote the importance of philosophy in local wisdom, and of philosophical thinking in general.

15. IRAQ

Philosophy Department, Al-Mustansiriya University, Baghdad

The Department organized a conference, with the participation of Iraqi philosophers. Coinciding with the eighth centenary of the death of the philosopher Al-Ghazali, the conference focused on his school of thought.

16. ITALY

Philosophy Research Center - Network of the Research Centre for the Didactics of Philosophy of the Province of Liguria; Chiabrera-Martini High School of Savona

The Center [www.portalefilosofico.com] dedicated its 2011 celebration to the theme "Philosophy as educational experience". The activities, on 18 November, were inaugurated by Professor Alfonso Gargano, Headmaster of the Chiabrera-Martini High School of Savona. This was followed by a video conference with the President of the International Association of Philosophy Professors (AIPPh), Dr. Werner Busch, on "The Political Philosophy of Hannah Arendt". The day was concluded with a lecture entitled "Forming Man. The Proposal of Edith Stein" by Professor Letterio Mauro, President of the Degree Course in Philosophical Methodologies at the University of Genoa.

17. JAMAICA

University of the West Indies

Several events were organized at the University.

18. LEBANON

Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO

On 17 November 2011, a seminar was organized on the subject "Freedom from a Philosophical Perspective and Freedom in Practice", with the participation of politicians, academicians, philosophers, researchers and specialized NGOs.

19. MADAGASCAR

Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Antananarivo; Association of Philosophy Students

A conference-debate took place on 17 November 2011 in the Palace of the Malagasy Academy in Antananarivo. The event was organized by Jacqueline Raelina Andriambololona, Philosophy Professor at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Antananarivo, full member of Malagasy Academy and founding member of the Madagascan Committee of Ethics for Science and Technology (C.M.E.S.T.), in cooperation with the Association of students in Philosophy. It gathered some 400 people, including eminent decision-makers, scientists, teachers, and in particular philosophy and high-school students. Chaired by the President of the Malagasy Academy and under the direction of the President of the Section of Moral and Political Sciences of the Academy, six speakers presented their papers on various topics related to ethics in their respective fields of specialization, followed by a debate.

20. MALAYSIA

University of Malaya

A conference was organized on 17 November.

21. MAURITIUS

International Network of Women Philosophers

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Priya Baligadoo, member of the Network, published an article in the daily *Le Mauricien* entitled « 17 November 2011 – World Philosophy Day: promoting this discipline and paying tribute to philosophers”.

22. MEXICO

Ministry of Public Education of Mexico

An International Forum on “The role of philosophical competencies in Higher Secondary Education” took place from 14 to 16 November 2011 at the National Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City. Its purpose was to promote dialogue between education authorities, experts and specialized agencies, in order to strengthen democratic citizenship among high school students through the study of philosophy. In the framework of this event many conferences and round-table discussions were organized on the following topics: "The present and the future of Latin America. Philosophical reflection", "The teaching of philosophy and its contribution to knowledge", "The relations between philosophy and natural sciences", etc. Among the participants are: Fernando Savater (Spain), Philippe Perrenoud (Switzerland), Michael Löwy (Brazil / France), Gianni Vattimo (Italy), Evandro Agazzi (Italy). A book fair also took place.

Philosophical Observatory of Morelos, Philosophical Observatory of Mexico

To celebrate World Philosophy Day, the Philosophical Observatory of Morelos organized, jointly with its partner the Philosophical Observatory of Mexico, the following two events:

- A conference which took place on 23 November in Cuernavaca, Morelos, near Mexico City on which occasion a number of issues were addressed, including: The state of philosophy in Mexico; The development of philosophy and the contribution of Adolfo Sanchez Vazquez; Tribute to Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel; The anthropological contribution to philosophy of Edith Stein, etc.
- A conference organized on the occasion of the launch of the Spanish version of the UNESCO study *Philosophy, school of freedom* held on 28 October in Toluca as part of the XVI International Congress of Philosophy.

Center for Classical Studies of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, Department of Philosophy at the University of Guadalajara, El Cuerpo Académico: Cibernética, Erótica, Filosofía y Teología

From 3 to 5 November 2011 in the public library of the State of Jalisco in Guadalajara took place the National Meeting of Researchers of *Novohispano* Thought. The meeting touched upon the following topics: Philosophy of slavery in New Spain; The sources of *Novohispano* thought; Philosophy and economic, political and social thought; Science and education; History, art and literature; Social thought; Philosophy and arts; Philosophy and science; and History of social thought.

University Center for Humanities and Social Sciences at the Department of Philosophy of the University of Guadalajara,

From 7 to 10 November 2011 a student philosophy symposium was organized as part of the celebration of the World Philosophy Day. The following topics were discussed: ethics, bioethics, political philosophy, philosophy of science, philosophy of psychology, philosophy of religion, philosophical anthropology.

International Book Fair in Guadalajara

On 3 December, in the framework of the International Book Fair in Guadalajara, took place the VII Philosophical Symposium (*VII Banquete de FIL - o - Sofía*) on the theme "Recognition and critical thinking", conceived as a dialogue between the Mexican and German philosophers. Another symposium will be held on 1 and 2 December on the theme “Politics, violence and democracy between the global and the local”, which will address such topics as: The changing faces of violence; Conflicts and

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opportunities of globalization; Perspectives of transculturality; Politics and ethics against violence; Violence and justice, etc.



23. MOROCCO

UNESCO Office in Rabat

The Interregional Philosophical Dialogue Asia-Arab world, initiated by UNESCO, took place this year in the framework of World Philosophy Day from 15 to 17 November 2011, in Manila.

Philosophical Association of Tetouan

The Association organized from 26 to 30 November 2011 the following activities:

- Discussion on the theme "The Existential Situation of the Arab Spring" with the participation of many thinkers and scholars from Morocco;
- A conference on "The artistic approach of the Arab Spring" followed by a presentation of publications;
- A Plastic Art Exhibition on "Which Arab spring?"

24. NAMIBIA

Namibia National Commission for UNESCO; Socrates Society at the University of Namibia

The Socrates Society at the University of Namibia and the Namibia National Commission for UNESCO organized activities in which eminent personalities took part.

25. NEPAL

Department of Philosophy and Psychology of Tribhuvan University

The Department organized a conference that took place on 17 November on the topic "Philosophy : Peace and Unity", with the participation of Prof. Teel Bikram Negwang, Chancellor of the Nepal

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Academy, Prof. Hirkaji Maharjan, Vice-Chancellor of the Tribhuvan University, Prof. Triratan Manadhar, Vice-Chancellor lumbini Baudhh University and five major religions leaders of Nepal.

26. NETHERLANDS

Utrecht University

A round table focusing on philosophy teaching was organized by the Philosophy Department of the University.

Teylingen College Leeuwenhorst in Noordwijkerhout

On the occasion of the Day, the College organized a "Philosophy and Singer/songwriting: creative expressions of the human mind" masterclass with the participation of the school's students. The main topics were primarily freedom of expression and aesthetics.

27. NIGERIA

Department of Philosophy of the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Nigeria; Council for Research in Values and Philosophy, United States of America

The Department of Philosophy at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University (Awka, Nigeria), in collaboration with the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (Washington, D.C., United States of America), organized a conference on "Philosophical Perspectives on Africa and the Global Change". The following topics were discussed: the conceptualization of global change; philosophy, democracy and global change; and intercultural philosophy and dialogue of cultures.

28. PHILIPPINES

UNESCO Offices in Bangkok and Rabat

The Interregional Philosophical Dialogue Asia-Arab world, initiated by UNESCO, took place this year in the framework of World Philosophy Day from 15 to 17 November 2011, in Manila.

29. PORTUGAL

High School of Art Anthony Arroyo, Lisbon

Several activities were planned.

Project « filocriatiVIDAde »

To celebrate World Philosophy Day, the project « filocriatiVIDAde » organised a Philosophical Banquet entitled « Philosophy: Love and other things that make us sigh, think and create!»

In addition, "filocriatiVIDAde" conducted, on 17 and 18 November, philosophical workshops for children in some schools in the region of Lisbon.

Finally, the project undertook activities in applied philosophy of creativity among the Taekwondo athletes Rodafits from Caneças. This project, entitled PhiloTKD and initiated in 2008, emphasizes the philosophy perspective of Taekwondo, and is adapted to both children and adults.

30. SENEGAL

Philosophical Society of Senegal

The Philosophical Society of Senegal celebrated the Day with events on diversity and dialogue of cultures.

31. SLOVENIA

To celebrate the Day, a discussion was organized on the theme "New Humanism – vision or illusion?"

32. SPAIN

Illa de Rodes Institut, Province of Girona

The celebration of World Philosophy Day 2011 will take place on 16 December 2011 in Figueres with the participation of 200 students.

Group of high school philosophy teachers (GDF); Centre de Recursos per a l'Ensenyament, Aprenentatge i Innovació de la Filosofia (CREAIF); Catalan Philosophical Society; Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Barcelona

On 16 November 2011, the prizes of the Mostra de Fotofilosofia 2011 were awarded to their winners at the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Barcelona. On this occasion, the best "fotofilosofies" were exhibited and discussed through philosophical practices. This is a cooperative project involving 50 Catalan high schools. The students of each high school created blogs called "fotofilosofies". A "fotofilosofia" is a philosophical question illustrated with a photo. Using creativity and critical thought, through a dialectic between image and word, it emphasizes questioning and leads to reflection.

<http://blocs.xtec.cat/filoconvocatoria/>

33. SWITZERLAND

French gymnasium of Bienne, Swiss Commission for UNESCO

The 2011 edition took place in Bienne, a bilingual Swiss town. A bilingual philosophical debate was organized from 18 to 20 November. Professors from Universities of France, Switzerland and Germany discussed the theme of evaluation and control, inviting the City to break out from the unique thought and to rethink social links. Philosophy in the City for the building of peace, universal philosophy at the heart of the City and within everyone's reach, such are the objectives of this celebration.

34. ROMANIA

The Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași

A round table and an essay contest were organized at the University.

35. RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Saint-Petersburg Philosophical Society; Faculty of Philosophy of Saint-Petersburg State University

The Philosophical Society and the Faculty of Philosophy of St. Petersburg State University organized the Days of Saint Petersburg Philosophy, on the theme "Worlds of values of modern humankind", from 17 to 19 November 2011.

36. THAILAND

UNESCO Office in Bangkok

The Interregional Philosophical Dialogue Asia-Arab world, initiated by UNESCO, took place this year in the framework of World Philosophy Day from 15 to 17 November 2011, in Manila.

37. TOGO

Lomé University

On 17 November 2011 on the campus of Lomé University three conferences were organized on the general theme "Philosophy and development in Togo". In addition, the Goethe Institute of Lomé organized a roundtable discussion on the topic "Citizenship Education and Development."

38. TURKEY

Istanbul Philosophy Clubs

The Platform of the Istanbul Philosophy Clubs celebrated the Day on 17 November 2011, at Koç University. Following a screening of the film “12 Angry Men”, several workshops were organized focusing on the following themes:

- The responsibility and courage of those who scrutinize doubts;
- Reality and the factuality of facts;
- Discrimination, prejudice and empathy.

Philosophical Society of Turkey; Department of Philosophy and Philosophy Club of Maltepe University

On 17 November 2011, a number of activities were organized by these institutions, including “Macit Gökberk Traditional Sauntering Tour”, a documentary performance entitled “Tarsus and Philosophy in Ancient Era”, a discussion session and a mini concert.

Rectorate of Ankara University and Philosophical Society of Turkey

On 18 November 2011 a round table entitled “Philosophy Facing Present-day Problems” was organized by the Rectorate and the Philosophical Society of Turkey to celebrate World Philosophy Day, with the participation of Prof. Dr. Cemal Taluğ, Rector of Ankara University; Prof. Dr. Ioanna Kuçuradi, President of the Philosophical Society of Turkey; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gülriz Uygur, Ankara University; Prof. Dr. Halil Turan, Middle-East Technical University; and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Haluk Erdem, Ankara University.

39. UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Philosophy Association of Tanzania (PHATA) of the Philosophy Unit, University of Dar es Salaam; Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, University of Nairobi; and Department of Philosophy, Makerere University, Kampala

A conference on “Peace and People Centred Development”, coordinated by the Association of Philosophy of Tanzania in cooperation with the University of Nairobi in Kenya and the University Makerere in Uganda, brought together professionals, researchers in political science, history and economics, NGOs as well as other interested parties, in Dar es Salaam, from 17 to 19 November 2011.

40. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

This year’s theme in the United States, “**Philosophy and the Arts: Human Rights, Democracy and Youth**”, involved the exploration of questions about the nature of art, beauty, and human rights in four academic communities around the country. University undergraduates and high school students examined issues involving art, identity, democracy, and human rights, through dialogues that seek to build critical reflection and mutual understanding.

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia

On 17 November 2011, Dr. Mitchell Green’s Philosophy of Art class participated in the dialogue “Philosophy in Images: A Collaboration between College and High school Students”, focused on democracy, human rights and youth as part of Drs. Jennifer Merritt and Loren Intolubbe-Chmil of The UVa Women’s Center, and Aimee Hunt, Education Curator for the UVa Art Museum Women’s Center Philosophers’ Club project. Dr. Merritt also shared student products connecting themes of philosophy, human rights and gender from her service learning course for UVa Women’s Center interns entitled “Women Peace and Justice”.

University of Washington and Nova Alternative High School, Seattle, Washington

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Dr. Jana Mohr Lone and Professor David Shapiro, from the University of Washington's Northwest Center for Philosophy for Children, and Nova Alternative High School teacher Terrance McKittrick, facilitated a dialogue between undergraduates in the University of Washington's "Philosophy for Children" class and Nova High School students enrolled in the philosophy class "The Beauty of Dysfunction." The dialogue, which took place on 17 November, explored the nature of beauty based on a project completed by both the undergraduates and the high school students.

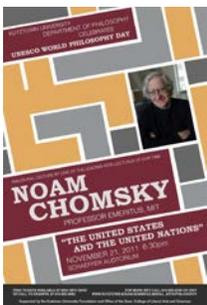
St. John Fisher College, Rochester, New York

Drs. Timothy Madigan, David White and Robert Zack hosted Dr. Rosemarie Tong, University of North Carolina-Charlotte, who lectured on 16 November on the theme "Global and Local Perspective on Long-term Care for Elderly People". All day 17 November was devoted to teaching, learning and discussion through Roundtable Discussions focusing on the themes: Arts across the curriculum; Philosophy and art in a high school setting; Aesthetics appreciation; Metaphysics and the Twilight Zone; Artists at work; Art & Education; and Wither the Arts. The discussions are available on-line at <http://www.sjfc.edu/academics/arts-science/departments/philosophy/>.

Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana

Dr. Leonard Harris hosted Lucius T. Outlaw, Jr., Professor of Philosophy & African American and Diaspora Studies, Associate Provost, Undergraduate Education Vanderbilt University, who lectured on "Necessity to Philosophize Africana Philosophy and Black Folk", using SKYPE. His address asked and answered "What it is to engage in philosophy and why it is so important to do so?", emphasizing philosophy's importance to victims of stereotypes using the critical theory tradition. A graduate student Roundtable Discussion followed the lecture discussing "The Significance of Graduate Education and Resources." Dr. Outlaw's address and roundtable discussion can be found as a podcast www.purdue.edu/cla/unesco.

Kutztown University of Pennsylvania, Kutztown, Pennsylvania



On 21 November, Dr. M. Ashraf Adeel hosted Dr. Noam Chomsky, Institute Professor and Professor of Linguistics (Emeritus), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), who gave a lecture on the topic "The United States and the United Nations". His lecture addressed issues pertaining to global understanding and is expected to critique the current state of affairs and suggest ways for improving global relations. Podcast of this discussion will be available on 30 November 2011 by Kutztown.

Philosophy Department, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland

The celebration program included an award ceremony for the winners of an essay prize in ethics including high school and college contestants, and a talk by Dr Mariana Ortega, Shula Chair in Philosophy at John Carroll University, entitled "Words, Images, and Atropos: Marlene Dumas and Heidegger on Death to Come." Dr Ortega used the work of South African born, Amsterdam-based artist Marlene Dumas to elucidate the notion of being-towards-death, an exemplary concept for the human situation linking races, nationalities and philosophical viewpoints.

41. UGANDA

Uganda National Commission for UNESCO; Uganda Philosophy Society and Makerere University

To mark World Philosophy Day 2011, the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO together with Uganda Philosophy Society and Makerere University organized a public lecture on the theme

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"Understanding the role of philosophy in Uganda's development process", with the participation of several philosophy professors.

42. URUGUAY

Philosophical Association of Uruguay and UNESCO Montevideo Office

The Philosophical Association of Uruguay, in collaboration with the Philosophy Programme of the UNESCO Montevideo Office, organized on 17 November 2011 the celebration of World Philosophy Day around the theme "Philosophy, cultural diversity and rapprochement of cultures." It had as main activity a round table, coordinated by the President of the Philosophical Association of Uruguay, Prof. Atilano Beltranchini.

43. UZBEKISTAN

National Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan for UNESCO, Oliy Majlis (National parliament) of the Republic of Uzbekistan, MOST National Committee, Academy of Sciences, Ministry of Higher and Specialized Education, Ministry of Public Education, National Society of Philosophers of Uzbekistan, "Olima" Women-Scholars Association of Uzbekistan and Independent Institute for Monitoring of Construction of Civil Society

A National Conference on "Women Philosophers Network in Uzbekistan: Role of Philosophy Teaching in development of Democratic Institutions and Construction of Civil Society" was organized by these institutions in Tashkent, on 17 and 18 November 2011. The main purposes of the conference were to develop the national scientific network of women philosophers and to highlight the role of social and human sciences in the promotion of quality education for active citizenship. The different conferences and round tables focused on: "Philosophy and science", "Teachers' training: philosophical approaches", "Skills development of teachers", "Philosophy knowledge in assessment of students' competence", etc.

44. ZIMBABWE

Different activities to celebrate the World Philosophy Day were organized throughout the country.