

Book release: Franciscus Patricius, *Discussiones Peripateticae* (*Peripatetic Discussions*)

On February 7, 2023, the Institute of Philosophy presented the publication of Franciscus Patricius's *Discussiones Peripateticae* (*Peripatetic Discussions*) in Zagreb City Library Bogdan Ogrizović. The work on this publication, lasting from 2000 to 2021, has been the Institute's most ambitious and challenging publishing project. The result of this major undertaking is eight books, each containing a bilingual (Latin-Croatian) edition of *Discussiones Peripateticae*, several introductory essays, numerous notes, indexes, and bibliographies. Some of the published material is also available online (https://www.ifzg.hr/digitalna_bastina/franciscus-patricius/).

The four volumes of *Discussiones Peripateticae* (Basel, 1581; the first volume was originally published in Venice, 1571) were among Patricius's most important works. The treatise is considered the most devastating philosophical critique of Aristotle's and Aristotelian philosophy in the Renaissance. In it, Patricius is at pains to downgrade the importance of Aristotelian and scholastic philosophy by favoring a variety of Platonism. Alongside *Nova de Universis Philosophia* (Ferrara, 1591, also published by the Institute of Philosophy in 1979), *Discussiones Peripateticae* demonstrates Patricius's lasting influence as one of the most important thinkers of the Renaissance. The Institute's edition of *Discussiones* comprises eight books (about 2600 pages in total). Vol. Three was published first (in one book, 2009), followed by vol. Four (2012, in two books), vol. Two (2013, in two books), and vol. One (2021, in three books).

The moderator of the presentation was Luka Boršić, the current director of the Institute, an expert on Patricius, one of the editors of vols. One and Two, and the translator of vol. Two.

The project's principal leader and the first speaker at the presentation was Mihaela Girardi-Karšulin. She pointed out some of the difficulties in carrying out the project, the most important of which was the lack of classical scholars to translate Patricius's often elusive text. She also spoke about the order of publication and explained that vol. 1 was left for the end of the project due to its extensiveness and complexity. She stressed that this is not a critical edition of the Latin text but an incentive for further research of *Discussiones* and a necessary step toward the critical edition.

The following speaker was one of the editors of vol. Four, Ivica Martinović. He gave an overview of the topic of that volume (natural philosophy) and briefly discussed Patricius's approach in his critique of Aristotle's views.

Olga Perić, who participated in the project from its beginnings and was one of the editors of vols. Three and Four, spoke about the major problems facing the translator of Patricius and emphasized the importance of numerous Greek quotations from Aristotle and the methods of their editing.

Filip Grgić, one of the editors of vol. One, spoke about the importance of that volume for understanding the entire plan of *Discussiones Peripateticae*. In that volume, Patricius tried to reconstruct what he considered the original Aristotle and Aristotelian philosophy, thus paving the way for the criticism of Aristotelianism in the other volumes.

Ivan Kapec, one of the translators of vol. Four, offered a translator's perspective, suggesting that while Patricius is easy to read, he is difficult to translate. The translator, he noted, has a lot of difficulty adapting the text to today's readers.

The last speaker was Pavo Barišić, former director of the Institute and current president of its Governing Board. He gave a survey of several philosophical encyclopedias and overviews of the history of philosophy to illustrate that Patricius has long been recognized as one of the classics in the history of philosophy, and of utmost importance for the development of early modern philosophy.

Ana Grgić