
ACADEMIC LIFE

Report on the activities of the Student History of Culture and Education Academic Club

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In the 2017/2018 academic year, the Student History of Culture and Education Academic Club dealt with activities in several areas. As always, the main objectives were to enrich historical and pedagogical knowledge, to broaden the scientific achievements of the club members and to try to use the acquired experience in pedagogical work.

First, regular weekly meetings of the Club were held throughout the year, the aim of which was to familiarise the members with philosophical texts and to discuss issues related to them. Both the lecturers, Krzysztof Ratajczak, PhD, and Michał Nowicki, PhD, as well as the students proposed philosophical and pedagogical texts whose educational value was discussed at the meetings. This academic year, classic texts such as Plato's *Seventh Letter* and *Phaedrus*, and *Ashtavakra Gita*, an Indian philosophical poem, were read in a series of weekly meetings. The topics contained in these works led the participants to many turbulent discussions and reflections on the philosophy of education.

On 8-12 February, a scientific seminar was held in Grupa, at the headquarters of the Fundacja na rzecz rozwoju świadomości ATARAXIA [ATARAXIA Foundation for the Development of Awareness], which collaborates with the Club. The seminar was led by Dr Michał Nowicki and Dr Anna Nowicka. This time was devoted to acquainting oneself with fragments of the Upanishads depicting the formation of religious and philosophical education in India (mainly the Chandogya Upanishad), as well as with Plato's *Symposium*.

Due to the need to change the Club board, on 21 February 2017 elections were held, in which the new authorities were elected by open ballot. The results were: Wojciech Jachnik as President of the Club, Marta Konstańczak as Vice-President, and Bartosz Jędrzejczak as Secretary.

Since February, intensive preparations have also started for the organisation of the Club's annual conference – the National Scientific Conference in the series “Education yesterday, today and tomorrow”, this time under the title “The teacher – who were they, who are they, who can they be? The changeability of the teacher's role in theory and practice”. The members of the Club became involved in such activities as the preparation

of research areas, the distribution of invitations and the planning of the conference programme.

An important result of the work in the Club was the preparation of a paper entitled “Grzech i niewiedza jako źródło cierpienia i zła w kontekście teleologii pedagogiki” [Sin and ignorance as a source of suffering and evil in the context of pedagogical teleology] by Dr Michał Nowicki and student Sarah Taylor, in cooperation with the Eighth National Scientific Conference “Religion and evil”, which was held on 7 April 2017 at the Faculty of Social Sciences of the Adam Mickiewicz University.

On 17 May 2017, Klaudia Kowalska and Wojciech Jachnik represented the Club at the 9th Conference of Student Organisations of the Faculty of Educational Studies at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, “Dis(abled) people in the age of technology”. They presented a paper entitled “Mieć więcej – móc więcej? [Having more – doing more?], the aim of which was to present technology as an issue affecting human cognitive abilities.

Another important event in the life of the Circle was the co-organisation of a field game with the ATARAXIA Foundation for the Development of Awareness. The game took place on 25 May 2017 and was intended for students of grade 6 of the 16th Regiment of Wielkopolska Lancers Primary School in the Grupa. In this game, thanks to cooperation and joint action in the team, children got to know nature, and most of all they realised that they are part of it. Additionally, they had the opportunity to learn new skills such as orientation in the field and using a map, balancing on a line or decoding information. Dr Michał Nowicki and three students from the Club took an active part in the game: Sarah Taylor, Veronique Masiota and Anna Konopnicka.

A conference organised by the Student History of Culture and Education Academic Club, was held on 29 May 2017 at the Faculty of Educational Studies of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. The title of the conference and the research areas led the participants to take up various topics from historical, philosophical and ethical to various educational concepts and the role of teachers in them. Club members Agnieszka Galica, Wojciech Jachnik, Bartosz Jędrzejczak and Sarah Taylor also had their presentations during the conference. Each of them prepared a paper on the topic closest to their interests, thanks to which the participants of the conference could listen to exciting speeches that provided inspiration to reflection.

Sarah Taylor, Michał Nowicki