THE XVITH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE SIEPM

ZAGREB, 23–27 AUGUST 2027

PHILOSOPHY IN DIALOGUE IN THE MIDDLE AGES

LA PHILOSOPHIE EN DIALOGUE AU MOYEN ÂGE

The organizing institutions are honored to host the XVIth International Congress of the Société Internationale pour l'Étude de la Philosophie Médiévale (SIEPM), to be held from 23 to 27 August 2027. This prestigious event holds exceptional significance for the international community of medievalists and represents a distinguished occasion for both the hosts and the City of Zagreb.

This gathering is made possible through the collaboration of several distinguished Croatian institutions. Leading the project are the Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies and the Saint Thomas Aquinas Institute in Zagreb. The Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies is an integral part of the University of Zagreb,[1] while the Saint Thomas Aquinas Institute is formally affiliated with the Faculty. Additional contributors to the Congress include the Catholic University of Croatia, the Faculty of Croatian Studies at the University of Zagreb, the Institute of Philosophy in Zagreb, and the University of Zagreb itself.

The Congress aspires to foster the study of medieval philosophy within Croatia and its neighboring regions, while deepening a dynamic and enduring dialogue with scholars worldwide.

It is with sincere anticipation that we look forward to hosting this vibrant forum of exchange and reflection, and to welcoming the Society along with its current and future members in 2027.

TITLE AND TOPIC OF THE CONGRESS

The central theme of the Congress, "Philosophy in Dialogue in the Middle Ages," invites reflection on the rich intellectual exchanges that shaped medieval thought. It promotes research into how medieval thinkers conceived, practiced, and communicated philosophical inquiry. It highlights the plurality of voices and traditions that crossed cultural, religious, and geographical boundaries. It examines how ideas were transmitted, adapted, and reinterpreted within teaching, manuscript circulation, scholarly debate, and performative practices such as disputations, lectures and other scholarly practices – activities that reflect a philosophy that is open to

[1] The University of Zagreb, founded in 1669 as the Jesuit Academy in Zagreb, received its formal university status from Emperor Leopold I, marking a significant milestone in the history of higher education in Croatia. Yet the roots of Croatian academia extend even further back: the country's oldest university, the University of Zadar, traces its origins to a Dominican *studium generale*, later known as *Universitas Jadertina*, which was established on June 14, 1396. Together, these institutions reflect a rich and enduring tradition of scholarship that has shaped Croatian intellectual life for centuries.

dialogue. The Congress provides a platform for contemporary scholars to engage with this dynamic intellectual context and to explore its continuing relevance across time and tradition.

We welcome studies tracing the circulation of philosophical ideas through texts, institutions, communities, and material forms, highlighting characteristics of dialogic openness in the development of metaphysics, epistemology, logic, cosmology, ethics, and other fields. Scholars are invited to examine philosophical dialogue as both a literary and intellectual structure, and to explore how interactions among thinkers, communities, and textual traditions shaped Islamic, Jewish, and Christian thought – Latin and Byzantine alike. Attention to multilingual exchanges, especially in Latin, Greek, Arabic, and Hebrew, can further illuminate the way in which dialogue expanded the transmission and transformation of knowledge across cultural and linguistic boundaries.

Scholars are encouraged to shed light on the ways in which the material and institutional conditions of medieval intellectual exchange and the advancement of knowledge took place. By studying manuscript circulation, scholarly commentary, marginal notes, and intertextual engagement, scholars can show how medieval dialogue operated, not only among thinkers but also within the layered fabric of textual interpretation. Dialogue served not merely as a methodological tool for connecting scholars, but also as a medium through which substantive and diverse intellectual content emerged, shaping critical inquiry, occasioning the exploration of multiple perspectives, and fostering the circulation of ideas, thereby contributing both to the advancement of knowledge and to the cultivation of intellectual virtues.

Contributions may address various forms of dialogue, for example that of philosophy with theology, politics, medicine, the natural sciences, mathematics, art, and other disciplines, as well as interactions between medieval authors and classical authorities such as Aristotle and Neoplatonism. Scholars may also examine how dialogical practices structured academic institutions, curricula, and teaching methods, illustrating the practical ramifications of intellectual exchange. The Congress welcomes studies showing that medieval philosophy emerged not as isolated thought but as a dialogically constituted ecosystem, where ideas were enacted, transmitted, and transformed across time, space, and cultures.

Submissions from SIEPM members at all stages of their academic careers – PhD students, early-career researchers, established scholars, and project leaders – are invited. We welcome individual papers and proposals for panels. By embracing diverse disciplinary perspectives, methodologies, and historical contexts, the Congress aims to highlight the dialogical nature of medieval philosophy, where intellectual, artistic, and scientific practices intersected. This tradition remains a vibrant testament to the dynamics of intellectual exchange throughout the Middle Ages, facilitating rigorous inquiry, the free circulation of ideas, and the creative exploration of complex questions. Understanding the functions and layers of these dialogues allows contemporary scholars to trace their lasting influence on subsequent intellectual and philosophical developments.

PARALLEL SESSIONS AND PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Each panel in the parallel sessions will run for 90 minutes and include three 20-minute presentations followed by a 10-minute discussion.

Submissions are invited in two forms:

1. **Individual papers** – Scholars may submit proposals for individual papers. The Scientific Board will group accepted papers into thematic panels and appoint chairs for each session. Proposals for individual papers should include:
    - The speaker's name and institutional affiliation
    - The title of the paper
    - An abstract not exceeding 250 words
2. **Panel proposals** – Individuals or groups are strongly encouraged to submit proposals for complete panels (90 minutes), normally consisting of three presentations and one chair. The organizers of such panels may propose both the chair and the speakers. It is also possible to submit more than one panel proposal. Panel proposals should include:
    - The name of the panel organizer
    - The name of the proposed panel chair
    - An abstract for the panel, not exceeding 300 words
    - For each paper within the panel:
        - The speaker's name and institutional affiliation
        - The title of the paper
        - An abstract not exceeding 250 words

Submissions for the Congress are invited in French, English, Italian, German, Spanish, and Portuguese. The Congress website, currently in preparation, will serve as the central platform for submitting proposals and accessing related information. For any questions or inquiries regarding the submission process, participants are encouraged to contact the official Congress email: siepm2027zagreb@gmail.com

All speakers must be SIEPM members at the time of the Congress. Scholars who intend to present a paper are urged to apply for membership at their earliest convenience; the Bureau will convene in certain intervals prior to the Congress to review new applications. Panel chairs need not be SIEPM members.[2]

All submissions for papers and panels must be received by 15 November 2026.

STRUCTURE OF THE CONGRESS

The Congress will take place from Monday morning, August 23, through Friday afternoon, August 27, 2027. Each day will typically include:

- One or two plenary sessions featuring lectures by invited speakers
- Three 90-minute parallel sessions per day, each comprising three 20-minute presentations and 10 minutes for discussion
- One session dedicated to one of the commissions
- A lunch break and coffee breaks between panels
- An evening cocktail or other social event

[2] For further information on SIEPM membership, see https://hiw.kuleuven.be/siepm/application

Wednesday will be dedicated to the election of the new Bureau of the SIEPM. On Thursday afternoon, the General Assembly will convene, followed by a plenary lecture delivered by the recipient of the Life-time Achievement Award.

All presentations will take place in person; no virtual or online participation will be available.

In addition to this structure, further activities may be introduced. These may include a guided tour of Zagreb's historic center, a plenary lecture held at a cultural or historical site, a concert, or similar events. Of particular interest to participants, the Library of the Archdiocese and the Cathedral Chapter of Zagreb (the Metropolitana or Metropolitan Library) represents the largest and most significant historical library in Croatia, with holdings that include 197 medieval manuscripts and a collection of 257 incunabula.

LOCATION: THE CAMPUS OF THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF CROATIA

All sessions will be held on the Campus of the Catholic University of Croatia. The Campus, comprising seven buildings, provides a high-quality environment for the Congress. At its center stands the Aula Magna, a hall accommodating between 485 and 550 participants, fully equipped with state of the art technology. The campus also features numerous lecture halls with capacities ranging from 30 to 100 seats, allowing for 12 parallel sessions. During the Congress, the spacious foyers can accommodate publishers and book exhibitions, while also providing opportunities for scholarly exchange beyond the sessions.

Additional Campus facilities include a student canteen and a dormitory. A landscaped square, adorned with well-maintained greenery and intersected by pedestrian pathways, offers a serene and inviting atmosphere, while a modern café provides a welcoming setting for informal and convivial gatherings.[3]

ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

Participants will be responsible for arranging their own accommodation. During the Congress, the organizers will provide selected meals and collective cocktails, and on-site dining facilities will also be available.

Accommodation on the Campus of the Catholic University of Croatia is recommended, with meals available at the campus student canteen. The Campus offers 162 beds, primarily in twin rooms. Reservations will be possible from the summer of 2026. Alternatively, participants may stay at the University of Zagreb student dorms, located approximately 20 minutes away by tram.

In addition to student accommodations, a variety of hotels and other lodging options are available near the Campus, complemented by a wide selection of nearby restaurants. For the Congress, several well-established and centrally located hotels will offer guaranteed rates, with reservations available from the summer of 2026. The city center, including Ban Josip Jelačić Square, can be reached from the University Campus in six tram stops (approximately 15 minutes). Open parking facilities are also provided on the Campus.

[3] For further details, please visit https://www.unicath.hr/en and refer to the accompanying photos.

Comprehensive recommendations and detailed information regarding accommodation, including hotels, inns and student residences, will be published on the Congress website in 2026.

CONGRESS FEES

All participants, with the exception of invited speakers, organizers, and members of the SIEPM Bureau, are required to pay a Congress registration fee.

Revenue from registration fees will contribute to defraying part of the organizational expenses of the Congress. Detailed instructions for bank transfers will be provided in a subsequent circular letter and posted on the Congress website.

Estimated registration fees are as follows:

- **Category 1:** Tenured researchers and professors – €140
- **Category 2:** Researchers and professors with permanent or tenured positions from Eastern Europe or other low-currency countries – €100
- **Category 3:** PhD students and scholars without permanent or tenured positions – €80
- **Category 4:** PhD students and scholars without permanent or tenured positions from Eastern Europe or other low-currency countries – €50

STIPENDS

Brepols-SIEPM stipends for speakers are available to assist SIEPM members under the age of 35 and those working in low-currency countries.[4]

The application deadline, together with additional details, will be announced on the Congress website in due course.

THE TEAM IN CHARGE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

Candidacy Promoter:

Anto GAVRIĆ (Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies, University of Zagreb; Head of the St Thomas Aquinas Institute, Zagreb; Faculty of Croatian Studies, University of Zagreb)

Operational Task Force:

- Ante CRNČEVIĆ (Vice-Rector, Catholic University of Croatia)
- Anto GAVRIĆ (Head, St Thomas Aquinas Institute, Zagreb)
- Ana GRGIĆ (Institute of Philosophy, Zagreb)
- Maja HERMAN DUVEL (Faculty of Croatian Studies, University of Zagreb)
- Marina NOVINA (Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies, University of Zagreb)
- Željko TANJIĆ (Rector, Catholic University of Croatia)
- Antun VOLENIK (Dean, Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies, University of Zagreb)

[4] For further information, please consult: https://hiw.kuleuven.be/siepm/brepols-siepm-stipends

Scientific and Advisory Board:

- Daniel BUČAN (Department of Philosophy, University of Zagreb; translator from Arabic into Croatian)
- Alojz ĆUBELIĆ (Catholic Faculty of Theology, University of Zagreb)
- Barbara ĆUK (Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies, University of Zagreb)
- Anto GAVRIĆ (Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies and Faculty of Croatian Studies, University of Zagreb; St Thomas Aquinas Institute, Zagreb)
- Ana GRGIĆ (Institute of Philosophy, Zagreb)
- Filip GRGIĆ (Institute of Philosophy, Zagreb)
- Tobias HOFFMANN (Sorbonne Université)
- Stjepan KUŠAR (Catholic University of Croatia, Zagreb/Geneva)
- Igor MARTINJAK (Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies, University of Zagreb)
- Predrag MILIDRAG (Institute of Social Sciences, Centre for Philosophy, Belgrade)
- Marina NOVINA (Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies, University of Zagreb)
- Andrea ROBIGLIO (University of Leuven)
- Josip TALANGA (Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies, University of Zagreb)
- Željko TANJIĆ (Rector, Catholic University of Croatia)
- Richard C. TAYLOR (Marquette University, USA)
- Irene ZAVATTERO (University of Trento)

The list may be extended.

Junior Team (Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Researchers):

- Maja HERMAN DUVEL (PhD Student, Faculty of Croatian Studies, University of Zagreb)
- Mislav MATIJAŠIĆ (PhD Student, Zagreb/Lyon)
- Stéphane MICHEL (PhD Student, Faculty of Croatian Studies, University of Zagreb)
- Ivica MRŠO (PhD Student, University of Sarajevo)
- Domagoj POLANŠČAK (PhD Student, Faculty of Croatian Studies, University of Zagreb)
- Katarina TADIĆ (PhD Student, Faculty of Croatian Studies, University of Zagreb)
- Kristijan ZELIĆ (PhD Student, Zagreb/Lyon)