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## ACADEMIC LIFE



# “PHILOSOPHY AND CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES. MAN IN THE ONTOLOGICAL TRAP” INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

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World Philosophy Day<sup>1</sup>, November 20, 2025, was marked at Yerevan State University with the launch of the international three-day (November 20-22) conference “Philosophy and Contemporary Challenges. Man in an Ontological Trap”.

It aimed to contribute to the development of philosophical knowledge, the philosophical understanding of existing problems, the cooperation of philosophers working in academic and educational institutions of different countries, the exchange of experience, the enrichment of the content of philosophical knowledge taught in educational institutions, and the improvement of teaching methods.

The conference was attended by representatives of academic and higher education institutions of Armenia (Yerevan State University, Armenian Academy of Philosophy, Armenian State Pedagogical University named after Kh. Abovyan, French University in Armenia, American University of Armenia, Yerevan State Medical University named after M. Heratsi), as well as prestigious scientific and

educational institutions of 10 foreign countries (Germany: Bremen University, Free University of Berlin, Romania: University of Bucharest, Spain: Autonomous University of Barcelona, Turkey: Ankara Technical University, Norway: University of Oslo, USA: University of Connecticut, Russian Federation: P.F. Lestgaft State University of Physical Culture, Sports and Health, Educational Foundation named after Sergey and Evgeny Trubetskoy Brothers (Moscow), Kazakhstan: M. Narikbayev University and Engineering Academy, Belarus: National Academy of Sciences Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Philosophy, from Crimea: V. Vernadsky University).

The participants of the conference were welcomed and the issues of the continuous development of philosophical knowledge and its teaching in the higher education system were highlighted by the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the conference Hovhannes O. Hovhannisyanyan, YSU Vice-Rector Elina Asriyan, Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy and Psychology of YSU Alexan Baghdasaryan, President of the Armenian Philosophical Academy Hasmik Hovhannisyanyan, President of the

<sup>1</sup> Since 2002, at the initiative of UNESCO, the third Thursday of November is celebrated as World Philosophy Day.



International Federation of Philosophical Societies Maria Baghramyan.

The President of the Republic of Armenia Vahagn Khachaturyan also sent a congratulatory and welcoming message to the participants of the event, which was conveyed to the attendees by the Assistant to the President of the Republic of Armenia Tatevik Karapetyan.

The conference was attended by both well-known scientists with great contributions and reputation in the field of science, as well as young researchers taking their first serious steps in the field of science.

The plenary session featured presentations by Alexander Manasyan, Professor of the Department of History, Theory and Logic of Philosophy at Yerevan State University, Member of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia and the Presidium of the Armenian Academy of Philosophy (“Turns in the Context of the Development of Philosophical Knowledge”), and Maria Baghramyan, Director of the Center for Ethics in Public Relations at the American University of Armenia, Professor at the Universities of Dublin (Ireland) and Oslo (Norway) (“Hope in Times of Uncertainty”).

During the three sections of the conference, thirty-five presentations dedicated to the philosophical interpretation of contemporary social, value-based, economic, political-civilizational, moral-psychological, epistemological, scientific and educational issues were presented. In particular: “Philosophical analysis of the search for the meaning of life” (Karina Oganyan), “Biopolitics 2.0: Holocaust Distortion and Denial in Digital Environments in Romania - A Case Study on Corrective Justice and the Digital Heritage of Viral Cancel Culture on Facebook” (Oana Serban), “The Christian Humanism of Gregor Narekatsi” (Seyran Zakaryan), “Interdefinability of Deontic Modalities in Non-Closed Normative Systems” (Vitaly Ogleznev), “Artificial Intelligence: Dizzy with Success” (Oleg Gabrielyan, Ibrahim Suleimenov), “Digital immortality and mourning in the age of AI” (Nelly Haroyan), “Non-classical logic and neo-rhetoric..” (Hovhannes O. Hovhannisyan), “Denialism and Its Consequences: The Epistemic Injustice of National Narratives” (Armen T. Marsoobian), “Critical thinking as a multifaceted foundation for knowledge, progress, and decision-making in the era of digital transfers” (Hasmik Hovhannisyan, Robert Djidjian), “The Role of Everyday

Practices in Shaping the Chronotope of Culture” (Ina Nalivaika), “M. Foucault and the South Caucasus” (Kristine Baghdasaryan), “From Stone Tools to Machine Intelligence: The Ethics of Technological Development” (Mariam Davtyan), “Rethinking the Imperial Context: Ottoman–Armenian Philosophy and the Shared Foundations of Ottoman Modernity” (Aret Karademir), etc.

Two of the reports were published as scientific articles in the current issue of *Wisdom*. Other valuable reports will be published in the 2026 issues of *Wisdom* after undergoing the appropriate peer-review procedure.

Within the framework of the conference, an open lecture on the topic “The performative nature of the language of law and the construction of legal reality” was delivered by Vitaly Ogleznev, professor of the Bremen University and the University M. Narikbayev of Kazakhstan. Students and postgraduates of the Faculty of Philosophy and Psychology of Yerevan State University, the Faculty of Law of the French University in Armenia, and university colleagues actively participated in the lecture and the discussion of the presented theses.

The conference had a rich program. Academic reports and discussions were followed by cultural events. The attendees were greeted musically by talented performers of the “New Names of Armenia” program (led by Nona Vardanyan). Professional performances from the treasury of national and world musical art were performed.

Students of the Faculty of Philosophy and Psychology of Yerevan State University, under the leadership of lecturer Ovsanna Nahapetyan, prepared and staged a theatrical performance entitled “In the digital “cave” of the 21st century”. The basis was the problems of modern man's alienation from the social environment and self-isolation in the virtual environment (“cave”) of digital technologies in the conditions of the rapid development of information technologies and artificial intelligence.

As a result of extensive discussions, the Conference adopted a Message addressed to colleagues in the field of philosophy, academic institutions, scientific and educational centers, international organizations, and political structures. (See next).

The Organizing Committee of the Conference, the Faculty of Philosophy and Psychology of YSU and the Armenian Academy of Philoso-



phy, express their gratitude to the YSU leadership for their support in organizing the Conference, and to the participants for their

valuable reports and active involvement in the discussions.

**HOVHANNES O. HOVHANNISYAN**  
Chairman of the Conference Organizing Committee





**“Philosophy and Contemporary Challenges. Man in the Ontological Trap” International Conference (YSU, Armenia, November 20-22, 2025)**

**MESSAGE TO COLLEAGUES IN THE FIELD OF PHILOSOPHY, ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS, SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL CENTERS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, POLITICAL STRUCTURES**

The number of problems threatening the existence of man and the civilized environment in the 21st century is not decreasing. Their nature and scale are changing.

In our time of accelerating historical processes, new challenges are emerging for man and society.

- The increasingly realistic threat of a world war threatening civilizational values and the existence of humanity;
- Global crises of the financial and economic system, problems of food insecurity;
- Epidemics, hunger, poverty, social injustice.
- Gradually escalating ecological problems threatening human health and existence.
- Crimes against humanity, forced displacement, genocidal programs and actions.
- Distortion of moral and value systems.
- Problems of reviewing and developing ethical, legal, and value systems related to the rapid development of artificial intelligence systems and information technologies.

The main key to overcoming and solving these problems lies in the transformation of man,

the development of his consciousness, spiritual-value, and worldview systems, and in the reform of educational systems not so much in terms of form and structure, but in terms of content. Because the future of humanity is largely determined by the current activities of educational systems.

In this regard, the philosophical reinterpretation of the problems outlined above, the delineation of their effective solutions in the field of public and professional discussions, acquires significant importance.

It is essential to encourage and develop comparable educational systems that instill universal moral and ideological values in national educational environments.

One of the surest guarantees for overcoming the challenges and pitfalls threatening society in the 21st century should be a policy of developing philosophical knowledge, increasing the proportion of philosophical and ethical disciplines in educational programs, and shaping the programs and knowledge provided around humanistic, human-centered ideas and values.





