

## **Medium-term Strategic Plan of the Institute of Philosophy (2020–2023)**

### **1a) Analysis of the external environment**

The situation of the Institute has been determined by the fundamental science policy reform in the course of which the Research Centre for the Humanities changed its operational form. Instead of being a budgetary entity of the Public Body of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS), as of 1 September 2019, it continues to operate as a central budgetary entity directed by the Eötvös Loránd Research Network (ELRN).

### **1b) Review of the internal capacities**

The previous period (2016–2018) saw the creation of the first excellence research team within the Institute, which has had an important budget from funds, and which has studied the values underlying scientific research. We have published monographs about the philosophy of Kant, Hume, and Saint Augustine of Hippo, about quantum theory, logical empiricism, historical philosophy and other topics. In addition to the publication of Latin- and Hungarian-language sources, the Hungarian Philosophical Archives has also been launched, which contains documents and biographical data. The Institute is a founding member of the Artificial Intelligence Coalition. The Institute has increased its presence in international professional forums, as has been reflected – in addition to our publication activities – by the higher number of international conferences attended and organized in the recent period.

In accordance with the broad interpretation of philosophy's mission of usefulness for the community, the fellows of the Institute have been involved in public life extensively as well as in popular science and interdisciplinary activities, both through their lectures delivered in Hungary and abroad, and their media appearances and writings. Our fellows are editors and members of editorial boards in numerous journals on philosophy and general culture, and they fulfil various positions in professional and cultural bodies. In addition to the usual forms of the academic dissemination of research findings, our fellows take an active role in the organization of panel discussions, debates, popular science lectures, student camps, and student meetings. Our services provided for the scientific community include the review of doctoral theses, calls for proposals and conference applications, the provision of expertise in cultural digitalization projects, as well as participation in the review process of academic quality assurance for domestic and international professional fora. Furthermore, a significant part of the research fellows of the Institute are engaged in higher educational activities on a regular basis.

## **2. Mission statement of the RCH Institute of Philosophy**

The general mission of the Institute is to nurture the Hungarian culture and language of philosophy, in harmony with HAS founder István Széchenyi's spiritual heritage, and as part of that, carry out research in the field of universal philosophical history and the various disciplines of philosophy, and make the findings thereof available for the international academia; convey the international results of philosophy to Hungarian culture through philosophical works written in Hungarian and translating the most remarkable contemporary philosophical works. In recognition of the historical diversity of philosophy, the Institute considers the generally accepted philosophical trends and positions as equal to one another.

We wish to preserve our role as the biggest institution of Hungarian philosophy in terms of staff number, research output and tender-absorption capacity – an institution which performs world-class and internationally embedded basic research on a broad scale of philosophical disciplines and ages, as well as socially relevant and cultural safeguarding activities. Areas that we attach priority to include the science philosophy of humanities and intellectual history, Hungarian philosophical history in the European context, pragmatic philosophy, and epistemological and metaphysical research engaged in a dialogue with natural sciences and artificial intelligence studies.

### **3. Setting strategic objectives for the RCH Institute of Philosophy in close correlation with the aims of the organizational units and groups**

The *Philosophical History* and *Pragmatic Philosophy Research Teams*, or – presuming that the internal restructuring envisaged will take place – the *Department of Philosophical and Intellectual History* function as the institutional platform of world-class and modern research into the philosophical and intellectual history, using state-of-the-art historiographical and analytical methodologies, thus contributing to the insertion of the history of Hungarian philosophy into the international context. Besides researching universal philosophical and intellectual history, the Institute also has the task to systematize Hungarian philosophical history and publish its sources, as well as to maintain the Hungarian Philosophical Archives that uses digital humanities methods (among others). Research teams that belong under this Department: *Intellectual History, Hungarian Philosophical History, Hungarian Philosophical Archives (Source-focused Universal and Hungarian Philosophical History)*.

The *Epistemology Research Team*, or – presuming that the internal restructuring envisaged will take place – the *Department of Epistemology* studies the classical and modern philosophical questions of knowledge in the broad sense, with a special focus on those changes that have been generated by the information technology revolution in this respect. Our main research areas are the following: collective epistemology, cognitive and digital knowledge architectures, artificial intelligence and learning theory, embodied cognition, and meta-philosophy. Going beyond the analytical traditions, our studies include the historical, hermeneutic, and phenomenological approaches, too.

The fellows of the *Science Philosophy Research Team*, or – presuming that the internal restructuring envisaged will take place – those of the *Department of Science History and Science Philosophy* work on matters arising from the perspective of integrated science history and science philosophy as well as with questions of contemporary science philosophy. The primary focus of the research conducted by this Department is on philosophical problems raised by modern science evolving from the 17th century, questions of the philosophy of modern-day physics, the philosophy of social sciences, the history of science philosophy, and general science philosophical problems. Research teams that belong under this Department: *Philosophy of Physics, Morals and Science*.

### **4. Setting up a system of performance indicators adapted to the profile of the RCH Institute of Philosophy, which will ensure that the implementation of the strategy could be monitored and directed**

The classification criteria pertaining to the Institute's public employees classified as scientific researchers, as well as the continuous academic qualification criteria are laid down in the legislation in force, hence, for example, in Gov. Decree no. 84/2011 (V. 6.), and in the RCH's

own *Qualification Policy*. For certain cases referred in the Institute's own competence (regarding, essentially, the academic conditions for the qualification of researchers in the permanent staff as senior research fellows and for granting tenure to researchers working as research fellows), the Board of the Institute approved its own qualification criteria in 2017 and published them on its website.

These qualification criteria formulate, on the one hand, publication requirements (e.g. as a general rule, the candidate must have at least 20 published papers, of which at least 5 must be written in a foreign language and published abroad in a prestigious publication, as well as at least one monograph, etc.), and on the other, criteria regarding scientific impact and participation in professional public life.

Thanks to its detailed rules, the qualification criteria take into consideration the disciplinary and methodological diversity of philosophy, and the general limitations of the applicability of a purely quantitative performance assessment in the field of humanities. Furthermore, continuous research efforts are evaluated by the instrument of the formulation and assessment of individual, team-level and institute-level annual research plans and research reports.

## **5. Determining the strategic action plans: the planning of institute-level programmes and projects in a yearly distribution**

General undertakings (valid for every year): publication of papers in Hungarian and international periodicals; writing of books; editing of volumes of studies; organization of professional conferences; popular science activities; participation in the Artificial Intelligence Coalition; cooperation with publishing houses (e.g. Akadémiai Kiadó), and higher education institutions in Hungary (e.g. ELTE, DE, NKE) and abroad.

2020:

- A conference in Prague and another one in Budapest on historical meta-philosophy, preparation of a planned volume;
- conference on the sociological historical relevance of the Scottish Enlightenment;
- conference on the role of organic metaphors in the history of economics;
- organization of a conference on the naturalization experiments of intentionality;
- publishing one or more special issues in the journal *Synthese*;
- monograph about Kant's view on time;
- preparation of a German-language source publication on the topic of early phenomenology;
- an international edited volume at Palgrave on J. Ayer's philosophy;
- an international edited volume at Routledge on the relationship between science, freedom and democracy;
- publication of a volume in the framework of an Italian–Hungarian bilateral cooperation;
- conference in Oxford within the *Recasting the Treatise* project;
- publication of a chapter titled *Philosophical Methods* in the volume titled *Oxford History of Scottish Philosophy*;
- organization of a panel at the *American Mathematical Society's* conference under the title *How to Solve It? Heuristics and Inquiry Based Learning*;
- publication of a collection of studies about the monograph titled “Az igazság pillanatai” [The Moments of Truth];
- publication of a volume on knowledge sociology and Hungarian sociological history at Brill;

2021:

- organization of the 3rd international heuristics conference;
- publication of a special issue of the journal *Notes and Records of the Royal Society* on the 18th-century history of physiology and life sciences;
- publication of an English-language monograph on the nature of philosophical cognition;
- publication of an English-language monograph on the political philosophy of the European town;
- an international edited volume at Routledge on the early relationship between physics and science philosophy in positivism;
- an international edited volume at Bloomsbury on the concepts of understanding social sciences in analytic philosophy;
- an international edited volume at Springer on the relationship between ethics, positivism and socially engaged philosophy;
- an international edited volume on the philosophy and life of Ernest Nagel;
- publication of the last book manuscript of Philipp Frank from the Harvard Archives at SUNY Press;
- organization of a scientific workshop on the topic of the relationship between intentional conscience and phenomenal conscience;

2022:

- publication of the volume titled *David Hume and the Ideology of the Scientific Revolution* (or in 2021);
- publication of the volume titled *Mental Fictionalism* (or in 2021);
- monograph on cognitive and meta-cognitive styles;
- publication of a monograph on Imre Lakatos's philosophy;
- organization of an international conference on the 100th anniversary of Imre Lakatos's birth;
- an independent English-language monograph about the life and philosophy of Otto Neurath;
- publications on the political philosophy and aesthetics of Roger Scruton;
- publication of the volume titled *Recasting the Treatise* (or in 2021);
- organization of a scientific workshop on the history of the concept of intentionality;

2023:

- Closing of the NRDIO project (OTKA K\_19 131564) performed in cooperation with the RCH Institute of History, entitled "Publication of József Eötvös's correspondence 2".

The individual items listed above are subject to change depending on the changes in the regulatory environment, in the institutional framework and in the intentions of the cooperation partners, as well as on the grant decisions and the logic inherent to scientific research.

## **6. Overview of the economic background of the Institute's action plans (business plan)**

The financing of the research tasks and related auxiliary tasks of the Institute is composed of the normative basic funding on the one hand, and of the research grants obtained by the fellows of the Institute on the other. The fact that in the previous period, the actual staff number of the Institute – 2016: 36 persons, 32.92 years of work; 2017: 35 persons, 30.42

years of work; 2018:32 persons, 28.04 years of work – could surpass the staff number financed by the basic funding has been made possible by the Institute’s strong capacity to attract external funds. Of these external funds, in terms of performance, we should highlight the HAS scheme for young researchers (simultaneously 3 employees on average), the (now changing) components of the postdoctoral scholarship system (OTKA/NRDIO, PD, HAS Postdoctoral and Premium scholarships), and the opportunities provided by the first HAS “Lendület” [Momentum] research team won by the Institute. Welcome as they are, these funds are rather unpredictable both from the perspective of planning the research activities of the Institute and the career path of the young researchers. The fact that nurturing the next generation of researchers cannot depend on such unpredictable resources is clearly demonstrated by the recent fluctuation of the total number of staff members and their years of work at the Institute (in consequence of which the Institute was unable to provide a promotion opportunity appropriate for the researchers’ career path model to those talented young researchers whose employment had been funded from external project funds). As a further difficulty, there is no material expenses budget line tied to either the permanent staff, or to certain personal funding forms that would cover the travel expenses and procurements indispensable for research, and the Institute can reimburse these from its own resources only to a limited extent.

It is our hope that the reform (indicated in Point 1) of the Hungarian science policy will bring about the introduction of a science-financing model taking into account both governmental and social expectations that will guarantee a predictable career path for researchers of all generations, and provide the same sort of predictability for the research activities of the Institute, enabling the further extension and deepening of the research profile of the Institute.

## **7. Monitoring the measures following from the strategy (feedback); measuring and verifying the implementation of the strategic actions**

Essentially, the space for the planning, implementation and evaluation of the individual and collective research performances is the internal structure of the Institute, which needs to adapt to the situation of external project funding (see Point 6). Accordingly, the research team structure of the Institute has recently undergone numerous changes. At the beginning of 2019, the Director General of the Research Centre merged the seven research teams of the Institute, creating four research teams instead: the *Philosophical History Research Team*, the *Pragmatic Philosophy Research Team*, the *Epistemology Research Team* and the *Science Philosophy Research Team*. As part of the transformation process, upon the instruction of the HAS President, the individual groups reformulated their definition and their research objectives for the proposal material of the *Research Area Excellence Scheme* prepared in the first months of the year. In autumn 2019 the Institute had to elaborate a proposal regarding the replacement of the research teams by three departments.

We hope that a stable and durable internal structure will emerge within the Institute during the planning phase that will ensure the consensus-based, deliberative direction of the Institute, and also – by the creation of departments – the application of the principle of subsidiarity in matters of funds distribution within the Research Centre and also within the Institute. We also hope that during the planning phase, the central executive positions (director, deputy director) of the member institute will be filled in accordance with the new framework system to be formulated by the Eötvös Loránd Research Network – and the roles and operational arrangements of these functions as well as of the scientific secretary of the Institute and the

Board of the Institute (earlier: Strategic Advisory Board [STT], later Council of Research Team Leaders [KVT] and Operational Advisory Board [OT]) will be redefined as expected.

**Annex:**

Research topics:

In the field of philosophical and intellectual history, and pragmatic philosophy: Besides conducting research on universal and Hungarian philosophical history on a world-class level and with international embeddedness, offering an interdisciplinary outlook and using a modern historiographical methodology, we also wish to continue the systematic source publication of Hungarian philosophical history, whose cornerstone is the critical edition of works that had been available only in a foreign language (Latin or German) or in manuscript, completed by an interdisciplinary source exploration. The source publications currently under preparation or planned offer a selection from the texts of 17th-century natural philosophical debates that had been accessible only in Latin, and from those of the theory of “*sensus communis*” and early Hungarian aesthetics, completed by the edition under preparation of the German-language correspondence of Géza Révész and Franz Brentano. We wish to continue to provide access to the selected works of Menyhért Palágyi and to the German-language diary of Bernát Alexander. We wish to examine the history of Hungarian philosophy from the perspective of the structural changes of philosophical publicity and the self-interpretation of the philosopher’s role (following the guiding principle of the *sensus communis* tradition, with a special focus on aesthetics, and the history of philosophical publicity and in it, of the 19th-century “national philosophy”). Our research – to be carried out in cooperation with our international partners (Oradea, Vilnius, Bratislava, Warsaw, Ljubljana, Taipei, Murmansk) – cover the study of the Central and Eastern European interpretations of modernity, and in particular the regional and European contexts of the 20th-century Hungarian cultural criticism. Our further aim is to achieve that the research team become one of the hubs of the international studies examining the Hungarian and Central-Eastern European history of natural law, in close cooperation with the “Natural Law 1625–1850” (Erfurt/Halle) and *EMLO: Early Modern Letters Online* (Oxford) research networks and databases.

Thanks to the creation of the Hungarian Philosophical Archives, traditional source publication is accompanied by digital philology. The long-term objective of the archives is to preserve the written heritage of the history of Hungarian philosophy, and make it accessible in accordance with the research conditions of the 21st century. Moreover, the archives may also serve as the dissemination tool of the research on Hungarian and universal philosophical history carried out at the Institute, as well as their supportive research platform (e.g. digital and hybrid text editions), which we intend to further develop by the innovative application of cutting-edge digital technologies in humanities. If the Institute received sufficient funding, this could be accompanied by an enterprise which would strive to collect the biographical data of the historical Hungarian philosophers according to uniform criteria and assess them from a philosophical historical and socio-historical point of view.

From the earlier pragmatic philosophical research, we would like to pursue our research into the intellectual history of early modern urban republicanism, studies into natural law and bioethics, and we will preserve our connections with communication theory as well. We wish to complete the history of political thinking with research into the history of aesthetics, and we will also examine the links between “aesthetic” and “political” in the ancient Christian tradition and in the age of modern/postmodern art, both in theory and practice.

We plan to maintain our Italian bilateral relations, and some international conferences and foreign research trips must also be on our agenda so that we could follow relevant international research. Research into intellectual history is interdisciplinary in Hungary, too, so the research team of the Institute is open to political scientists, historians and literary historians, both from Hungary and abroad.

In the field of epistemology:

- A comparative study of the epistemological interpretations of collective knowledge.
- The examination of the nature of philosophical cognition, with a special focus on philosophical disagreements and the ethics of philosophical views.
- The study of the processes of non-summative collective belief creation and collective justification, along the following keywords: intellectual division of labour, epistemic dependence, epistemic trust.
- The comparative study of contemporary conceptions of the mind, especially the correlation between the embodied mind and the extended mind.
- The investigation of the question whether it is possible to explain conscious experience within a purely physicalist-naturalist worldview.
- The exploration of the question to what extent the concept of the embodied mind is supported (or not) by current research in cognitive sciences.
- The examination of the practical implications of the recent conceptions of the mind, with a special focus on learning and research on artificial intelligence.
- The study of the extent to which the interpretative framework of social-epistemology can be enlarged to the nature of scientific cognition.
- The examination of intelligence styles and meta-styles (meta-cognitions).
- The interpretation of the notion of the *truth* in the hermeneutic and phenomenological tradition.

In the domain of science philosophy and science history, in the framework of the HAS “Lendület” [Momentum] grant, the Institute deals with the historical, philosophical and sociological study of the values underlying, orienting, limiting and in various respects, justifying scientific research, which is completed by the philosophy of natural sciences (quantum theory, notion of probability). They have published and plan to publish monographs and edited volumes, as well as journal issues and thematic blocks (*Synthese, Early Science and Medicine, Journal of Scottish Philosophy, Philosophy of the Social Sciences, Foundations of Physics*, etc.) at leading international publishers (Brill, Springer, Routledge, Oxford UP). An ERC tender is under preparation.

17 December 2019, Budapest

Pál Fodor  
Director General

A ford. megj.: “a megértő társadalomtudományos koncepciók” fordítását kérem ellenőrizni.