

## Editor's Introduction

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The present volume of THEORIA is dedicated to a collection of papers presented at the XII<sup>th</sup> Taller d'Investigació en Filosofia (TIF) held on January 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 2010 at the University of Girona. Founded in 1999, the TIF was first organized at the University of Barcelona by Josep Macià, now a senior member of the Logos research group in Logic, Language and Cognition, and to whom I especially want to dedicate this monograph. The meetings have alternated between the University of Girona, the University Rovira i Virgili, the University Autònoma of Barcelona and the University of València. The TIF was born from the idea of bringing together young philosophers that at that time were doing their PhD in different Catalan universities. This graduate conference was initially conceived as a local event but it gradually became more popular amongst European students, to the extent that in the last three conferences at least half of the participants have been from foreign countries. From the first conference to now, many changes have been made, but one thing has remained constant: the commitment and dedication of all graduate students that have been involved in the organisation and have participated. This continual dedication and commitment has not only resulted in the publication of this XII<sup>th</sup> monograph but also the upcoming thirteenth conference.

The TIF is held annually and its participants are mainly students who have not yet presented their thesis or have already read it in the last three years. The ongoing aim of the conference is to encourage the contact and interchange of ideas between young philosophers. The TIF's intention is to have an interdisciplinary focus in order to minimise the negative effect of specialization. This approach gives the participants the opportunity to be exposed to other areas different from those that they usually work in. The TIF's final objective is to help students improve their work through discussion on the basis of the comments and criticisms received.

Graduate students working in several areas of philosophy were brought together for two intensive days of discussion. The conference attracted nearly twenty participants, coming from all around Europe. The content of the presentations were diverse and topics ranged from philosophy of biology to metaphysics. All the papers in this volume derive in some form or other from the materials presented at the conference and are published here for the first time.

This edition includes: Fiora Salis (University of Barcelona), *Fictional Names*; Alfredo Tomasetta (University of Vita-Salute San Raffaele), *Counting Possibilia*; Marta Jorba (University of Barcelona), *Is There A Specific Experience of Thinking?*; Marc Artiga (University of Girona), *Learning and Selection Processes*; Miroslav Imbrisevic (University of London), *The Consent Solution to Punishment and the Explicit Denial Objection*; Gonçalo Baptista Do Santos (University of Barcelona), *A Not So Fine Modal Version of Generality*



*Relativism* and Sergi Oms (University of Barcelona), *Truth-functional and Penumbra Intuitions*.

In "Fictional Names", Fiora Salis argues that the standard referentialist and descriptivist accounts of the content of fictional names and of fictional reports are inadequate. She proposes an account consistent with referentialism by treating the propositional contents of fictional reports as interpreted logical forms.

In "Counting Possibilia", Alfredo Tomasetta presents Timothy Williamson's ontological commitment to the existence of mere possible objects (MPO). According to Williamson, we can offer correct answers to counting questions such as how many knives can be made by fitting together two blades and two handles because we count MPOs. In his paper Alfredo argues that we can dispense of this commitment by answering such counting questions using the notion of 'rule of an art'.

In "Is There a Specific Experience of Thinking?", Marta Jorba defends the existence of a phenomenological specificity of the experience of thinking. She justifies her position by appealing to Husserl's theory of intentionality in *Logical Investigations* together with what she judges as illustrative of the peculiar phenomenology of thought; the case of understanding.

In "Learning and Selection Processes", Marc Artiga discusses the viability of teleological explanations to account for the normativity involved in such processes as learning. What an organism or a device learns to do is explained by appealing to its etiological function. Once he has presented a teleological proposal, he comes to consider and answer some possible objections.

In "The Consent Solution to Punishment and the Explicit Denial Objection", Miroslav Imbrisevic tries to defend Nino's consensual theory of punishment from Boonin's objection. Nino argues that an individual, by committing an illegal act, consents irrevocably to assume a liability to punishment. Boonin objects that there is no reason not to accept denial of consent in criminal contexts given that we allow such denials in non-criminal ones. Miroslav, by giving an explanation for the irrevocability of such consent, tries to neutralize Boonin's objection.

In "A Not So Fine Modal Version of Generality Relativism", Gonçalo Santos objects to Kit Fine's version of generality relativism according to which it is not possible to quantify over absolutely everything. Fine tries to avoid Timothy Williamson's self-defeating objection against generality relativism. However, Gonçalo's proposal is to prove that even Fine's own version cannot avoid this kind of objection.

In "Truth-Functional and Penumbra Intuitions", Sergi Oms deals with the phenomenon of vagueness. He explores some unsuccessful objections against the Super-evaluationism semantic approach to vagueness and Tappenden's gappy approach. Finally, he addresses some personal concerns to Tappenden's approach.

I would especially like to acknowledge the support received from the previous organizing committees to which I also want to dedicate this volume. I wish to thank Mirja Pérez de Calleja for sharing with me the responsibility of organizing this twelfth edition. Nor can I forget the members of the scientific committee whose work has been crucial for the success of the conference. Thus, I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to them for dedicating their time and effort to evaluate the nu-

merous proposals we have received. Furthermore, I am grateful for the economic support received from the Department of Philosophy, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, the Doctoral Program in Human and Cultural Sciences at Girona University; the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation and from the Research project “Modal Aspects of Materialist Realism” HUM 2007-61108. Finally, I wish to thank all the members of the Logos group ([http://www.ub.es/grc\\_logos/index.php](http://www.ub.es/grc_logos/index.php)) for their unconditional support and their efforts to create a stimulating environment that has promoted, year after year, the organization of this graduate conference.

I would also like to convey my deepest appreciation and thanks to the reviewers and the editors of THEORIA (José Díez, Genoveva Martí, David Teira and Josefa Toribio) for their interest in the project and for their tireless effort in bringing this volume about. All of the participants in the conference, presenters, commentators and the audience, receive my gratitude for making it the vibrant and intellectually stimulating conference that it was. I would of course also like to extend my great thanks to all of the contributors to this volume, for their intellectual efforts and contributions. We would like to sincerely thank the reviewers, for their detailed feedback that improved the quality of the papers in this volume and last but not least I would also like to thank you, the reader, for taking the time to examine this volume.

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