

Editorial

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Truth is one of the central subjects in philosophy. It is also one of the largest and perhaps oldest. Moreover, a huge variety of issues in philosophy relate to truth, either by relying on theses about truth, or implying theses about truth. I am happy to present the first issues of the new series of *Studia Philosophica Estonica*, both dealing with this central notion.

We had originally hoped that we could publish these first issues already about half a year ago, but we underestimated the technical difficulties that we would encounter in preparing *SPE* as an online-journal. I would like to thank all the authors of our first volume for their patience with us during these past months. Now that we have overcome these difficulties *SPE* will be published in a regular form, with short intervals between submission and editorial decision, as well as between a positive editorial decision and the eventual publication.

The history of *SPE* can be traced back to the *Acta et Commentationes Universitatis Tartuensis* which were founded in 1893. After WWII it was continued during the Soviet period as *Papers on Philosophy* which as a series of *Tartu University Transactions* was published almost entirely in Russian. From 1993 the journal was published primarily in Estonian and called *Studia Philosophica*. Now we wish to take *Studia Philosophica Estonica* to a new level, by opening it to international contributors and readers and installing an academic peer-review system that can guarantee a high quality of the articles published.

The purpose of *Studia Philosophica Estonica* is to publish scholarly papers and notes embodying original research in all areas of philosophy. We encourage interdisciplinary contributions and submissions that use new approaches to elucidate their topic, provided they confirm to the contemporary standards of scientific rigor. Detailed treatments of specific themes are also welcome. We also publish book notices and reviews. Despite its name

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the journal is not restricted to contributors from Estonia. We encourage all interested parties to take part in its development. *SPE* publishes papers in English, Estonian, and German.

We open this new series with these two issues on *Truth*. The first issue, volume 1.1 (Special issue on *Truth*, Part I), contains primarily papers that we received after a call for papers during the second half of 2007. The second issue, volume 1.2 (Special issue on *Truth*, Part II), contains primarily papers that were presented in a workshop on *Truth*, co-organized by the Chair of Theoretical Philosophy and Philosophy of Science of the Department of Philosophy of the University of Konstanz (Germany) and the Chair of Theoretical Philosophy of the Department of Philosophy of the University of Tartu during the German-Estonian academic week *Academica* from October 1 to October 3 2007 in Tartu.

However, both issues begin with a paper by Wolfgang Künne from the University of Hamburg who delivered in February 2007 the first *Gottlob Frege Lectures in Theoretical Philosophy* under the title *Conceptions of Truth*. The *Gottlob Frege Lectures in Theoretical Philosophy* are named in honour of the German mathematician and philosopher Friedrich Ludwig Gottlob Frege (1848-1925). We have chosen Frege as the patron for our lecture series as he is widely recognised for his clarity and unpretentious, no-nonsense style of dealing with philosophical problems. Every year the *Frege Lectures* feature a prominent theoretical philosopher and present the best of contemporary theoretical philosophy to a wider audience.

Wolfgang Künne is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Hamburg. He is author of *Abstrakte Gegenstände* (1983, 2nd edition forthcoming) and *Conceptions of Truth* (2003), co-editor of *Direct Reference, Indexicality, and Propositional Attitudes* (1997) and *Bolzano and Analytic Philosophy* (1997), and editor of *Was ist Wahrheit?* (2007) and *Frege, Logische Untersuchungen* (2007). He is President of the International Bolzano Society and Full Member of the Göttingen Academy of Sciences. He was also for many years member of the steering committee of the German Association for Analytic Philosophy.

I would like to thank professor Künne again for coming to Tartu and for three days of most interesting lectures and discussions, and also for granting us the permission to publish two of these lectures in our journal. Professor Künne's lectures were an excellent start for the *Frege Lectures* that we were able to establish as an annual event. Just recently, in June 2008, the second *Frege Lectures* were delivered by Prof. Paul Boghossian, Silver Professor of Philosophy, New York University, on the topic *Objective Knowledge*. I can only hope that we will also in the future be able to find such brilliant and internationally renowned philosophers who are willing to come to Tartu and

to present their work to our Estonian audience.

I also hope that the positive reaction to our call for papers for special issues, as well as the general acceptance of our journal as a venue for high-quality scholarly work will continue in the future. I should like to thank all authors again who sent their work to us for these first issues, giving a virtually unknown journal a chance.

After a long discussion of all pros and cons, we decided to publish *SPE* from now on *primarily* as an online journal. The acceptance of online journals is continuously rising, and the printing costs for issues that are merely stored unread in the archives of university libraries (especially if all the content is also available freely on the internet) can be used in a better way. We also strongly believe in open access to scientific information, and the only way to guarantee this is to minimize the publication costs (the printing costs being the largest factor in this). This change in our publication strategy also brings about certain changes in the publication process and format.

When a journal is published in printed form, the publication of accepted articles usually has to wait until an issue of the journal is completed, or — if many articles are in the publication queue — until there is space in an issue for the paper to eventually appear in print. This delays the publication time even after the acceptance decision has already been made and the — also time-consuming — review process is long over.

With an online journal this need not be the case. *After the acceptance decision is made, papers can immediately be published in their final form.* We are concerned here with open submission, i.e. submissions to *SPE* that do not answer a specific call for papers for a special issue. Special issues, unlike the open submissions, will continue to be published in “one package.” Thus we had to find a way to continuously publish papers in the “open” process, as they come in and are accepted, and publish special issues at the same time. Our solution is the following:

- Starting from now, *SPE* is published in “volumes.” One volume consists of the issue that contains all “open submissions” of one year, comprising all articles accepted between January 1 and December 31 of that year, and the special issues of that year.
- Starting from 2009, issue 1 of each volume is (as by default) the issue that publishes over the year the accepted papers, as they are accepted.
- Starting from 2009, issue 2 to n (if there are any) are *special issues*. A special issue gets published when all papers for that special issue are ready. Some of the special issues might appear in printed form. This decision will be made by the editor.

- The pagination of each issue begins with page number 1. This way, the continuous publication in issue 1 can not conflict with the pagination in the other issues — we don't have to wait until issue 1 is published completely (after December 31 of a year), but can publish issue 2 when it is ready. This also gives us the flexibility to publish a special issue in printed form, whenever we think that this is suitable. Since the printed version should also have the same pagination as the online version, each printed publication will be a little booklet, starting with page number 1.
- Since it is customary to drop reference to issues when citing an article, but rather to provide only the volume number and the pages of that article, the customary way of referring to an article would in our case be insufficient to identify an article. For that reason, the issue number will be part of the volume number: the first issue of 2008, the year of our first volume, is in volume **1.1** of *SPE*, the second issue in volume **1.2**, etc.
- In (the unlikely) case that we receive no open submission in a year, the first special issue of that year will be volume *i.1*. This decision will be made by the Editor in Chief when the first special issue in that year is ready for publication.
- Since a paper might be published in volume *i.2* *preceding* a paper that is published in volume *i.1*, we will indicate the month of publication on the first page of each article. This way our readers will be able to keep track of the course of a discussion (e.g. when a later paper refers back to an earlier paper published in our journal).

We hope that this will make our journal more attractive to authors, since we will be able to offer a relatively quick publication process. We hope this will also make our journal more interesting for readers, since we will have something new to present more often over the course of the year.

You can submit papers to our journal at any time through our new online submission system at www.spe.ut.ee. Please be sure to check the guidelines for contributors before submitting your article, and if your submission answers to a specific call for papers for a special issue, check the relevant call for a specification of submission guidelines. If you wish to be kept up-to-date about the contents of our journal, you can register for our contents alert on the same website, www.spe.ut.ee, to be notified via email when something new is published in our journal.