

PREFACE

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The Kant-Readings International Conference has traditionally taken place in Kaliningrad every five years since 1974, when the 250th anniversary of Immanuel Kant's birth was celebrated. The 12th Kant-Readings Conference was thematically devoted to Kantian practical philosophy, its relation to various ethical conceptions of the historical tradition of the Enlightenment and to the concept of enlightenment from the perspective of Kant's philosophy. The conference participants intended to demonstrate that Enlightenment and enlightenment ethics focus on the notions that are key to our thinking about humanity, such as dignity, autonomy, happiness and moral goodness, and that they have seminally influenced not only the historical epoch called "the Enlightenment" but also the cultural and socio-political character of the following centuries up to and including today. In spite of the fact that all these doctrines were based on somewhat different moral foundations – such as human moral sense, human reason or God – they equally searched for a justification of *duty* and of the real possibility of *moral motivation*. Moreover, they raised the question of the relationships between morality and politics, education, society and the rational justifiability or unjustifiability of coercion. The authors raised questions about the common features that characterise ethical doctrines during the Enlightenment and warrant the collective title of 'enlightenment', about the ethical content and significance of the enlightenment project itself and the possibility of its rational foundation and defence. Since Kant's ethics also directly relates to the various conceptions of enlightenment put forward by his immediate predecessors in Germany, Great Britain and France, including Wolff, Rousseau, Shaftesbury, Hutcheson, Hume and others, one of the most important topics at the conference turned out to be the question concerning the reception of Kant's moral philosophy and its influence on the evolution of enlightenment thought in other countries especially in Russia, whereby the enlightenment project extended far beyond its initial European location and eighteenth century epoch. The authors were also looking for answers to the questions, to what extent Kant's philosophy can be fruitful for thinking about ethics, education, society, and politics in our contemporary world, and what Kantian philosophy can offer to address the current and prospective challenges produced by technological advances and other pressing current global problems.

The 12th Kant-Readings Conference took place from 21-25 April 2019 with three plenary and nine panel sessions attended by more than 110 researchers from 20 countries; it was organised by the *Academia Kantiana* of the Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University, financially supported by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR) (project no. 19-

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011-20160) and by the Russian Academic Excellence Project at the Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University.¹

Altogether, 43 original articles were written after the presentations at the conference and then peer-reviewed. Unfortunately, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic beginning in 2020 and the various human and organisational problems caused by it, the publication has been delayed. The editors thank all the authors for their interesting and important contributions, and all peer-reviewers for their excellent work during this difficult time. The editors are also grateful to Dr Luciana Martinez and Dr Michael Lewin for their help in checking the design and formatting of the texts.

References to Kant's original texts (I. Kant. *Gesammelte Schriften* (Akademie-Ausgabe), Berlin 1900 ff.) are presented in the following form: *Siglum*, AA (Vol.-Number.): page[s], for example: (*MpVt*, AA 08: 264). Sigla index see here: http://www.kant-gesellschaft.de/de/ks/Hinweise_Autoren_2018.pdf. References to the *Critique of Pure Reason* are given as follows: (*KrV*, A 000) for the texts of the first edition, (*KrV*, B 000) for the texts of the second edition, and (*KrV*, A 000 / B 000) for fragments present in both editions. References to English translations of Kant's works are followed by the references to the *Akademie-Ausgabe*.

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¹ For more about the conference see: N.A. Dmitrieva, A.S. Zilber, V.A. Chaly, A.S. Kiselev and P.R. Bonadyseva, 2019. Kant's Ethics in the Context of the Enlightenment. Report of the 12th Kant Readings Conference (Kaliningrad, 21-25 April 2019). *Kantian Journal*, 38(4), pp. 101-118, <http://dx.doi.org/10.5922/0207-6918-2019-4-5>.

For the conference program see: <https://kant-online.ru/en/xii-kant-readings-international-conference-kant-and-the-ethics-of-enlightenment-historical-roots-and-contemporary-relevance/>. The conference video materials are available at the *Academia Kantiana* channel on YouTube: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLd0R4QMdRX519cwol04vSXdNkAxeKz5Nd>.