PANEL DISCUSSION: ATHEISM TODAY

A Discussion on the Status of Atheism in the Era of Donald Trump, Viktor Orban and Jarosław Kaczyński

Participants: Ewa Majewska, Gregg Lambert, Julian Baggini, Szymon Wróbel

During our discussion we would like to address the following questions: Is the stake of atheism to establish a society of radical democracy? What are the determinants of political action of the atheistic subject – especially today when we see the "return of religion" and the politics feeding on religion? Granted, if atheism were parasitic on and secondary towards religion, it could not exist without it. Should we thus assume that there is a positive formula of atheism? What would be this positive content be and what would the message from the atheistic worldview to the world? Could such a worldview help the modern man to regain "faith in the world"? A dogmatic atheist is someone who thinks that there is no chance he is possibly wrong in claiming that God does not exist. Can one profess strong atheistic views and still allow them to be invalidated (as fallible, erroneous)? Is sceptical atheism imaginable and if it is - what is it? Is it not doomed to immediately turn into a kind of agnosticism? How to be an atheistic sceptic? Are there recognizable means (paths) in philosophy to overcome residual atheism - the kinds of Martin Heidegger's or Jacques Derrida's, which, despite of abandoning the "logic of redemption " is constantly looking for aesthetic, political or ethical consolation after the "departure of God", be it in the search of "messianic time"? Can philosophy be liberated from the language of crypto-theology? What should an atheist do today? What are the moral and ethical determinants for the action of the atheist subject? How to imagine the political and ethical obligations of an atheist towards the society surrounding him?