

Preface

The current special issue of the *Organon F* journal is for all interested in the history, present, and future challenges of temporal logic or in the attempts to analyze temporal phenomena or time-dependent entities from the perspective of logic, philosophy, or analytic metaphysics. This issue is primarily based on the accepted and reviewed contributions from the conference *Times, Events, and Logical Specification* held on May 19, 2022, till May 21, 2022, at the Department of Philosophy, Palacký University Olomouc.

We would like, first of all, to thank all the authors for their valuable and inspiring contributions presented at the conference or in this current issue. At the same time, we are grateful to all the reviewers of the papers for their careful work, and precious and helpful comments.

As the title of the conference suggests, the main focus was on the phenomenon of time and events, their logical specification, and associated ontological commitments. The problem of explicitly capturing ongoing

processes and temporality is becoming increasingly widespread not only in analytical philosophy and logic but also in computer science. Some papers dealt with the issue from a historical perspective; others presented new challenges and solutions.

Peter Øhrstrøm and David Jakobsen devote their papers on the history of tense logic, focusing specifically on the logic of Arthur Prior. Peter Øhrstrøm suggests in his paper *Highlights in the Development of Tense-Logic* that Prior's personal motivation consists of the tension between human free will and divine foreknowledge. He points out that Prior developed his tense logic to deal with this issue. Despite Prior's motivation being well known, Øhrstrøm's paper provides new archival material that complements the history of the rise of tense logic.

Jakobsen's article *Fulfilling Russell's Wish: A.N. Prior and the Resurgence of Philosophical Theology* introduced Prior's contribution to the discussions on ontological argument and analytic theology. Similarly



to Øhrstrøm's paper, Jakobsen presented unpublished archival materials that illustrate Prior's interest in the issue and the struggles he had to undergo in contemporary analytic discourse. Additionally, Jakobsen develops Prior's argument of metaphysical and theological issues that quantified tense-logic has brought.

Since changes taking place over time are usually called events, the specification of the term event and ontological commitments connected to it becomes crucial in the context of temporal phenomena. Bjørn Jespersen and Massimiliano Carrara open the issue of the knowability of impossible events in their article *Impossible events and the knowability paradox*. Their contribution answers the disturbing question of whether impossible events are unknowable. It begins by distinguishing between concepts of 'impossible knowledge' and 'knowledge of impossibility'. Their analytical tool to rigorously provide their answer is Transparent Intensional Logic (TIL).

The same analytical tool as the specification language is used by Marie Duží when analyzing the events and activities of agents in multi-agent systems in her article *Specification of Agents' Activities in Past, Present and Future*. She demonstrates the importance of the fine-grained analysis of agents' activities

and points out that the relevance of events to agents might differ over time. She provides the analysis of dynamic activities in TIL with respect to the present, past, and future time.

Tadeusz Ciecierski argues in his paper *Actions, Products, Demonstrations* that the concept of demonstrations contains the ambiguity between actions and products and provides a theory of demonstrations based on this distinction. He pointed out that when one handles demonstrative situations the proposed theory offers a rich explanatory and descriptive power.

This issue does not include contributions from conference organizers that were also presented at the conference *Times, Events, and Logical Specification*. Martina Číhalová's paper *Specification of the Fundamental Concepts in the Ontology of Processes; Event, Process, Activity* and Zuzana Rybaříková's paper *Prior and Tichý's Concepts of Temporalism* were published in the previous issue of *Organon F*.

As conferences tend to be a succession of lesser or greater disasters, which bring sleepless nights to organizers, we prepared to quote one of the titles of Prior's papers, *Thank Goodness That's Over*, at the end of our conference. However, we did not use it in the end. Although our meeting started with a broken coffee machine

and some other sequence of troubles happened as is common at such events, the contributions and discussions were so impressive that it was a great time for us and we could even easily survive a longer duration. Our sincere thanks to everyone involved!

We hope that the papers included in this special issue will have a similar impact on you, readers, and will motivate you to read more impressive texts from our authors or at least about the presented topics.

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