

**CALL FOR PAPERS / APPEL À PROPOSITIONS**  
**OSTIUM – Volume 19, N° 1 (2023): PAUL RICOEUR THINKER OF AUTONOMY**

Autonomy is a central idea in Ricœur's thought as a whole. Specifically, his conception of autonomy evolves through the discussion of different inheritances that have a significant influence on his philosophical project, namely, the phenomenological, the hermeneutical, the sociological, the ethical, and the political. Therefore, his approach to the topic of autonomy is not limited to a moral consideration of it as a universal principle. Rather, Ricœur's analysis of autonomy is intertwined with the recurring themes of his thought, such as the body, language, action, identity, selfness and otherness, institutions, and justice. In dialogue with other thinkers (e.g., Aristotle, Locke, Kant, Mill, Rawls, Nozick, Berlin) Ricœur engages a number of different perspectives in considering autonomy, opening possibilities and creating new directions for understanding this notion in its multifaceted forms.

Following the International Conference "Paul Ricœur and the Challenges of Autonomy," held in Bratislava, November 2-5, 2022, this special issue of the Journal Ostium aims to emphasize the multiple dimensions of the concept of autonomy in Ricœur's thought, but also its resonance in social sciences and the humanities at large. Ricœur's approach provides new ways and interesting tools for understanding autonomy in its multifaceted forms. Some potential topics for articles include, but are not limited to, the following:

- *Embodied Autonomy.* What does it mean that embodied autonomy is a reflexive and a relational autonomy? How does autonomy relate to dependence? Which kind of connection does exist between autonomy and heteronomy? Which is the impact of Ricœur's conception of autonomy as embodied in feminist philosophy? In what ways can Ricœur's phenomenological approach to autonomy contribute to the field of care ethics?
- *Semantic Autonomy.* What are the implications of the Ricœurian model of semantic autonomy for the concept of autonomy? To what extent is autonomy involved in the process of understanding and explanation, belonging and distanciation? In considering detachment and presence, can the notion of semantic autonomy be understood as a metaphysical issue?
- *Narrative Autonomy.* Can narrative autonomy be understood as an ideological claim, a regulative ideal, an embodied and relational possibility? What is the connection between narrative autonomy and moral autonomy? What are the possible links between the capacity of the self to narrate and his or her participation to greater narrations such as public discourses, collective memories, cultural narratives?
- *Ethical and Moral Autonomy.* What kind of connection is there between autonomy and attestation as a distinctive act of willing? How does autonomy fit with ethically good forms of life? In what sense is autonomy is reflected in moral virtues, respect, and responsibility? How can one avoid the devolving of autonomy into the amoral or the immoral?
- *Political and Social Autonomy.* How the issue of personal autonomy relates to the liberal political theory? In what ways can autonomy be linked to pluralism and democratic social and political commitments? How does autonomy square with human rights, equality, and diversity? To what extent Ricœur's discussion of autonomy and vulnerability can help us to deal with issues related to political emancipation?

We encourage critical and interdisciplinary approaches bridging the fields of philosophy, theology, literature, anthropology, history, geography, and allied human and social sciences.

**Closing date for the submission of texts:** February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**Maximum number of words:** 5000. Articles can be written in Czech, Slovak, English, French, and German.

**Format and style:** [For authors – Ostium](#) The editors cannot consider articles that do not follow these guidelines.

**Instructions to authors:** articles can be send to the editorial e-mail: [redakcia@ostium.sk](mailto:redakcia@ostium.sk). All articles will be peer-reviewed by two referees in a 'double blind' process.

**Guest editors:** Maria Cristina Clorinda Vendra (University J. E. Purkinje Ústí nad Labem; Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague) and Paolo Furia (University of Turin).