

CALL FOR PAPERS

*Next year, the outstanding Czech Christian philosopher Prof. Stanislav Soušedík (*1931) will celebrate an important anniversary. We would like to honour this occasion by hosting the conference*

Second Scholasticism Analytical Metaphysics Christian Apologetics

A Conference in Honour of Professor Stanislav Soušedík's 90th birthday

27th–29th October 2021 • Catholic Theological Faculty, Prague, Czech Republic

Within Soušedík's lifelong scholarly efforts, three key areas of interest can be distinguished:

- *scholastic philosophy*, especially Thomism, Scotism, and the so-called Second scholasticism;
- *analytical philosophy*, which he linked to his metaphysical interests; and, finally,
- an *apologetic* of the Christian or, specifically, Catholic worldview.

Soušedík first became acquainted with the basics of scholastic thought was during his early theological studies. He further developed his knowledge only by self-study, deprived, under the communist regime, of contemporary literature and of the necessary contact with foreign scholars, to whom he had virtually no access before 1989.

However, in Prague libraries he discovered many little-known works by authors of so-called Second scholasticism, who were active at European universities in sixteenth through eighteenth centuries. His research in this field led him to conclude that, as far as philosophy is concerned, the period was by no means a time of darkness (as most Czech historians held) but manifests vital intellectual development.

Soušedík came to be more deeply involved with contemporary Western philosophy after the Velvet Revolution of 1989. He identified analytical philosophy as the branch closest to his scholastic interests since, like scholasticism, it pursues restrained and rigorous reasoning. The affinity of

the two currents gave him the idea to bring the older scholastic tradition up to date by means of analytical philosophy and philosophical logic. His efforts found broader response and, gradually, a group of students gathered around him, who followed upon his ideas in historical and systematic respects. With their help he founded the journal *Studia Neoaristotelica*, which at first aimed at the Czech milieu but later opened to like-minded foreign scholars.

Nevertheless, in doing that he became aware that his effort to bring Christian thought up to date runs up against the fact that contemporary Christian thought is largely inspired by ideas of the continental philosophical tradition.

This gradually moved him to become intensively involved with the work of those continental philosophers whose ideas seemed to have exerted an infelicitous influence on contemporary Christian philosophy and theology. In this last period of his work he makes use of his erudition to defend Christian (or more precisely Catholic) orthodoxy.



*Reflecting the threefold character of Sousedík's scholarly achievements,
the conference is conceived as consisting of the following three sections:*

- ♦ **Second Scholasticism**

where we solicit historically oriented papers bearing upon Renaissance and Baroque scholastic thought;

- ♦ **Analytical Metaphysics**

which will offer space primarily to lectures attempting to bring late-scholastic ideas up to date using the approach and methods of analytical philosophy; but papers deriving from medieval scholasticism (for example, in the vein of analytical Thomism), or systematic lectures on analytical metaphysics are also welcome;

- ♦ **Christian Apologetics**

devoted to the apologetic of Christian worldview, or a vindication of the philosophical prerequisites of Christian faith, with a special aim at a critical evaluation of the various ways in which the continental post-scholastic philosophical tradition has adversely affected Christian, especially Catholic, orthodoxy.



Further Information

- For more details, please see the website of the conference, <http://www.skaut.org/s-conf/>.
- There is no conference fee. Travel expenses, accomodation and boarding will be covered for three invited key-note speakers.
- The language of the conference is English.
- The expected length of a talk is 40 minutes (discussion not included).
- Please e-mail your abstracts of about 1500 characters / 250 words to the organizers, organizers@s-conf.skaut.org.

Organizers

Doc. Mgr. David Svoboda, Ph.D.

Dpt. of Systematic Theology and Philosophy
Catholic Theological Faculty
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Mgr. Ing. Prokop Sousedík, Ph. D.

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Mgr. Lukáš Novák, Ph.D.

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