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| **Meeting title:** Visiting Lecture: Infosophia |
| **Date:** 8.8.2024.  |
| **Time:** 18.00 |
| **Place:** Zoom |
| **Zoom link:** Odsjek za filozofiju Filozofski fakultet u Rijeci is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Topic: Odsjek za filozofiju Filozofski fakultet u Rijeci's Zoom MeetingTime: Aug 8, 2024 05:30 PM Europe/Zagreb Join Zoom Meeting[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87559952483?pwd=rfs1VgRDQUbohCJbhaxqYRsH8y0bid.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87559952483?pwd=rfs1VgRDQUbohCJbhaxqYRsH8y0bid.1" \t "https://mail.proton.me/u/0/inbox/_blank) Meeting ID: 875 5995 2483Passcode: 279534 |
| **Duration:** 2 hours |
| **Participants:** Boran Berčić, Matija Rajter, Josip Ćirić, Vito Balorda, Mark Balaguer, Andrej Jandrić, Ivana Vidović, Aleksandar Božić, Anamaria Šparica |
| **Absentees:** - |
| **Agenda:**1. Josip Ćirić delivered the talk „Infosophia: a data adventure in philosophy*“*
2. Discussion, questions and comments
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| **Meeting summary:** The team of the MetPhil project organised on Thursday 8.8.2024. a visiting lecture held by Josip Ćirić of Zadar University. Ćirić held the talk titled “Infosophia: a data adventure in philosophy” in which he presented results that have been taken from his forthcoming book of the same name. This visiting lecture was sectioned into two parts: first, Ćirić delivered his lecture along with the results of his research, after which the opportunity was given to the members of the audience to present their questions and comments. |
| **Talk summary:**One of the fundamental metaphilosophical questions is "What is philosophy?" The lack of consensus is one of the fundamental properties of any philosophical discussion, especially the one about the definition of philosophy. Thus, a different approach is needed.Encyclopaedias can be described as an organized, comprehensive, representative and authoritative set of knowledge about a certain knowledge domain. As the encyclopedia articles refer to each other, we can represent the encyclopedia as a complex network - a graph, in which the vertices are the encyclopedia entries and the edges are the links. This gives us the basis for formal analysis and calculation of graph parameters.The results have interdisciplinary consistency: encyclopedias represent a one-component complex network, they are a small world, and the degrees are distributed according to the power law. The incoming degrees can be used as a measure of relevance, i.e. centrality and peripherality of covered authors and topics in a certain field of knowledge.In addition to metaphilosophical questions, encyclopedias' graphs can also be used as a method of answering some specific philosophical questions.The results presented here are taken from the forthcoming book „Infosophia: a data adventure in philosophy“.Questions and CommentsBerčić* Are we making a mistake when we lump together authors and concepts?
* Let’s suppose we make an analysis of philosophy in the way presented by the author. Then we make the same analysis of biology. Can such an analysis help us understand the differences between philosophy and biology?
* No part of human knowledge is a deductive system. But we strive towards this ideal; philosophical knowledge should, accordingly, also represent a deductive system. Can such an informatical analysis point us towards a deductive sistem of knowledge if such a sistem truly existed?
* Can an informatical analysis reveal to us the structure of human knowledge?
* Does such an analysis show that philosophy puts a heavy emphasis on it’s history and authors, while the other disciplines put an emphasis on it’s problems, concepts etc.?

Balaguer* Doubts that this gives us a definition of philosophy. In philosophy literally everything is up for grabs, it’s the place where nobody knows anything. It’s the discipline where everything can be questioned. Therefore, the the analysis of philosophy by way of informatics is just a network of what a bunch of philosophers have said, but not what philosophy actually is.

Vidovic* Can this informatical analysis of philosophy point me towards concepts I am unfamiliar with regarding a particular philosopher that I have researched quite a bit?

Balorda* In what way do journal editors influence the data that we get from the informatics analysis?

Rajter* In their book Overgaard et al. mention that we can understand the question “What is philosophy?” in the descriptive and prescriptive sense. Can the author’s project make a contribution to provide an answer to the prescriptive question?
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