

The Human Condition – Reinventing Philosophical Anthropology

International Conference & PhD-workshop at AIAS, Aarhus University, June 23-26 2015

CALL FOR PAPERS: PhD-Workshop, June 23 2015

In recent years, prominent anthropologists have identified a certain lacuna. Inspired by a renewed interest in ethics and human agency, provoked by the all too rigid schematics of social reproduction, by trends commonly referred to as ‘post-‘ or ‘transhumanism’, and by the findings of biological anthropology and the cognitive sciences, they have in various ways articulated the desire for something like a *philosophical anthropology*. Using this notion one expresses the need to address the human in a way that not only depicts and discloses the plurality of human life forms in their socio-cultural, ethical and normative diversity, but that moreover dares to ask for universal traits or features common to all humans qua being human. Simultaneously, prominent philosophers have suggested a similar move towards *philosophical anthropology*, often in order to provide a more solid grounding for an all too specialized discourse in philosophical ethics or philosophy of mind, thereby echoing a certain reluctance to altogether dismiss ideas of *humanism*, despite of the dubious reputation of this term in late modern philosophical thinking.

The *term* ‘philosophical anthropology’ thus enjoys a certain interest across the disciplines that compose its name. However, it is by no means clear what kind of approach this term actually refers to. There is no recent paradigm, methodology, theory or discipline available that those who work with this term would rely or agree upon as a qualifying feature for philosophical anthropology. There was a tradition of philosophical anthropology in Germany almost a century ago, but almost none of the recent protagonists on either side seem to relate to it. Maybe *philosophical anthropology* reflects the peculiar status of its subject – the human being – , as it is a label for something whose essential characters remain elusive. The project of *Philosophical anthropology* expresses the need to explore the human condition – as such it remains a project and an ongoing effort to be reinvented anew.

The organizers hereby invite PhD-students in anthropology and philosophy to present and discuss their ideas of such a project or closely related projects.

Please submit an abstract of no more than 350 words by April 12 2015 to filrd@cas.au.dk.

Acceptance will be notified shortly after the deadline.

The format will be a 20 minute paper followed by 20 minutes of discussion. Aside from the organizers, a number of the prominent conference speakers will be discussants in the workshop. 3 ECTS-points will be granted for participation with paper *and* full attendance in the main conference.

For further information on the conference: <http://aias.au.dk/events/the-human-condition-reinventing-philosophical-antropology/>