

Preface

The present volume contains the submitted papers of the 29th International Ludwig Wittgenstein Conference (ILWS) which took place in Kirchberg, Lower Austria, in the week from 6th to 12th August 2006. It was organized by Georg Gasser and Edmund Runggaldier (both from the University of Innsbruck), together with the author of this preface. The submitted papers have appeared already in the volume: “Cultures: Conflict-Analysis-Dialogue. Papers. Kirchberg 2006.”

The papers presented at the workshops “How Successful is Naturalism?” and “Substance – Attribute. Islamic and Western Philosophy in Dialogue” appear at the same time in separate volumes in the ALWS-series of ontos. The former is edited by Georg Gasser, the latter by Christian Kanzian, University Innsbruck, and Muhammad Legenhausen, Imam Khomeini Education and Research Institute, Qom.

The general topic of the 29th ILWS is the same as the title of this volume suggests. Our leading idea is to make aware of the chances of systematic philosophical dispute for promoting a substantial dialogue between different cultures. With this idea we remain in the tradition of the Kirchberg-conferences: to provide a platform for high-level philosophical discussions on actual philosophical issues.

Essential for every Kirchberg-conference is the Wittgenstein-section. The papers included in the first chapter are its result. The other sections are intended to cover several aspects of the philosophical dialogue we try to promote: Intercultural Dialogue from the Perspective of Logic (chapter 2), Theory of Action and Theory of Decision Making (chapter 3), Intercultural Philosophy (chapter 4), (Social-)Ethical Aspects of the Intercultural Dialogue, and Rational Structures of World Views (chapter 5). Last but not least, we present the main talks of a workshop on “Social Ontology” organized by Barry Smith.

We are especially proud to have the permission to publish the paper of Richard Rorty (“Wittgenstein and the Linguistic Turn”) in this volume. Professor Rorty accepted our invitation to be the opening lecturer of our conference. For medical reasons he had to withdraw his plan to come to

Kirchberg, but allowed that his paper was presented during the conference. Our special thanks go to Professor Wiredu who was ready to assume spontaneously Richard Rorty's part as the opening speaker.

Keynote speakers alone are no guarantee for the scientific quality of a conference and its proceedings. Thus we have to mention that we could bring a large number of worldwide leading philosophers to Kirchberg. Have a look into the "Table of Contents" and you will find them. Thanks to them and to all of our contributors!

On behalf of the organizer's committee I want to thank the board of the Austrian Ludwig Wittgenstein for the support of the idea of our conference and to our publisher ontos, represented by Dr. Rafael Hüntelmann, for the friendly cooperation. The Austrian Federal Ministry for Science sponsored this publication together with the Government of the Province of Lower Austria. We are very grateful for the given funding and understand the support as an expression that the idea of this volume is appreciated also by our official institutions: *May our common efforts help to build bridges between our cultures, to find via philosophical analysis from conflict to continuous dialogue.*

Christian Kanzian