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Publishing Policy

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Philosophical Aspects of Origin (Polish title: *Filozoficzne Aspekty Genezy*) (ISSN 2299-0356) is an online philosophical journal devoted to the problem of origin — of the universe, the first life, subsequent life forms, man, mind, consciousness, language, scientific theories, religions etc. The scope of the journal also covers philosophical or methodological analysis of theories or beliefs related to the problem of origin.

We accept submissions written in Polish and, starting from 2014, in English: this includes articles, polemics, translations, book reviews and letters to the editor. In 2022, the journal became a biannual.

Manuscripts should be sent to the deputy editor-in-chief's e-mail address (g.malec@fag.ifil.uz.zgora.pl). You can also use our online submission system (<https://fag.ifil.uz.zgora.pl/index.php/fag/about/submissions>). Manuscripts written in Polish should be accompanied with a summary and keywords, in both Polish and English, and an English title should also be provided. Authors of manuscripts written in English should include a summary and keywords in English only.

The reviewing process in *Philosophical Aspects of Origin* is based on the *double-blind* principle, where neither the reviewers nor the author know each other's personal details. It is, however, the responsibility of an author to compose the manuscript in such a way so as to conceal his or her identity. Any content that might reveal an author's identity can be added later, after the manuscript has



been accepted for publication. The names of all of the reviewers who contributed to a given volume are provided in the last issue of each volume.

All submitted manuscripts, after initial acceptance by the editor-in-chief, are sent to two independent reviewers affiliated at academic institutions different to that of the author. Based on the opinions of the reviewers, the editorial board will decide whether or not to accept the text in question for publication. Accepted manuscripts, after the typesetting and text makeup processes have been completed, will be sent back to the author(s) as proofs for final adjustment. *Where no proofread version of an article has been sent back by the specified deadline, it will be assumed that the author agrees that no corrections are necessary and that the article can be published as is.*

The editorial board of *Philosophical Aspects of Origin* will do their utmost to publish the accepted PDF version of the article online as quickly as possible. It should be kept in mind, however, that the order of articles in a given volume is decided only after the volume has been closed to further submissions; hence, until then the page numbering of the articles should be treated as temporary.

Ensuring that good scientific practices are being promoted, the editorial board of *Philosophical Aspects of Origin* actively opposes *ghostwriting* and *guest authorship*. *Ghostwriting* is related to not mentioning the name of an individual who has contributed significantly to the article and should be considered the author or a co-author. *Guest authorship* means mentioning an individual as a co-author despite the fact that his or her contribution is negligible or nonexistent. The above are examples of scientific misconduct; hence, any improprieties of this sort that are uncovered will be appropriately documented and publicized. The editorial board will contact the relevant authorities, including the institutions employing the authors of the manuscript in question, as well as other relevant academic institutions or journals. Therefore, all prospective authors are hereby asked to provide appropriate information about who contributed to the work being submitted, and to what extent this was the case. Authors are responsible for ensuring that any such information is true and correct. All queries pertaining to such matters should be addressed to: info@fag.ifil.uz.zgora.pl.

Authors submitting their work are required to confirm the relevant data in our Submission Preparation Checklist. We accept the definitions of “author” and “contributor” formulated by The International Committee of Medical Journal Edi-

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All decisions concerning the acceptance or rejection of submitted texts are to be made by our editorial board after completion of a double-blind process of peer-review. Any such decision will be final and only subject to revision in special cases — e.g., when it transpires that there is a reasonable basis for supposing that a conflict of interest is involved, or that reviews exhibit bias. In such situations, the editor-in-chief can be asked to supply an additional evaluation, and the text will then be accepted or rejected on that basis. Each and every complaint or appeal will be considered by our editorial board as promptly as possible. All queries pertaining to such matters should be addressed to: info@fag.ifil.uz.zgora.pl.

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Citation Rules (abridged version)

Citation numbers should be placed **AFTER** punctuation marks, rather than before (i.e., after a full stop, semi-colon, or comma).

When providing a link to the full, online version of the cited text, you should shorten the link using one of the internet platforms such as <https://tiny.pl/> or <https://cutt.ly>. Shortened links should look like this: <https://cutt.ly/LvvW49N> [24.11.2019]; <https://tiny.pl/r82b2> [24.11.2019]. The link should be followed by the date of the last access, written in [dd.mm.year] format: i.e. [24.11.2017].

A. Quoting Books

(a) First citation: author's name (surname in small caps); title in bold typeface; if the book is translated from a foreign language, then the translator's name should be indicated after the title; if the book has been published as a part of a series, then the name of the series ought to be written in italics, while its number should be written in normal typeface after the comma; publisher; publication location; year; page number(s). Examples:

Karin KNORR-CETINA, **The Manufacture of Knowledge**, Pergamon, New York 1981, pp. 395–396; Richard DAWKINS, **The Blind Watchmaker: Why the Evidence of Evolution Reveals a Universe without Design**, Norton & Company, London & New York 1986, p. 142.

(b) Subsequent citations: author's last name (in small caps); abbreviated title (or the whole title when it is short) ending with an ellipsis (which is treated as a punctuation mark substituting all the other bibliographical data of the text, rather than only the further part of the title); page number(s). Examples:

KNORR-CETINA, **The Manufacture...**, pp. 395–396; DAWKINS, **The Blind Watchmaker...**, p. 48.

B. Quoting Articles, Reviews, etc.

(a) First citation: author's name (last name in small caps); title in inverted commas; in the case of a translation, "trans." followed by the translator's name; the name of the journal in italics and the year of publication; the number of the volume, issue or part of the volume; the page number; the first and last page of the text in square brackets; if the article appeared in a collective work, the citation

should list the name of the editor followed by the abbreviation “ed.” (in brackets) or its equivalent in other languages after the title or after the name of the translator; title of the collective work; publisher; place and year of publication; page (the first and the last page of the text in square brackets). Examples:

Dieter MÜNCH, “Minds, Brains and Cognitive Science”, in: Armin BURKHARDT (ed.), **Speech Acts, Meaning and Intentions: Critical Approaches to the Philosophy of John R. Searle**, De Gruyter, Berlin 1990, p. 372 [367–390]; Gonzalo MUNÉVAR, “Allowing Contradictions in Science”, *Metaphilosophy* 1982, Vol. 13, No. 1, p. 76 [75–78].

(b) Subsequent citations: author’s last name (in small caps); abbreviated title ending with an ellipsis; page number(s). Examples:

MÜNCH, “Minds, Brains...”, p. 373; MUNÉVAR, “Allowing Contradictions in Science...”, p. 77.

C. Quoting Excerpts from Other Authors’ Scientific Papers

If the excerpt extends beyond just a few words, separating it from the rest of the text as an indented block quote is highly recommended: use left-side indentation combined with a small space at the top and bottom, change the font size to 10 points, and apply single-line spacing. This paragraph serves as an example of said format:

This allows us to achieve a certain visual effect. The text becomes less monotonous and more nuanced and appealing. Excerpts taken from other people’s work are highlighted and, consequently, easier to find again later.

However, if the quote is short, it will suffice to put it in quotation marks. In the case of longer excerpts, inverted commas should not be used, as the indentation and other typesetting changes produce the same effect.

D. References

The list of references should be sorted alphabetically by authors’ last names. It should look like this:

BOYER Pascal, “Religion: Bound to Believe?”, *Nature* 2008, Vol. 455, pp. 1038–1039.

MUNÉVAR Gonzalo, “Allowing Contradictions in Science”, *Metaphilosophy* 1982, Vol. 13, No. 1, pp. 75–78.

Citation Rules (full version, explanations included)

Submitted texts should use the so-called “Zielona Góra Citation System” developed by Professor Kazimierz Jodkowski, the founder of *Philosophical Aspects of Origin*. Here we provide examples of the proper use of that system, and explain them further down below.

First and foremost, citation numbers should be placed **AFTER** punctuation marks, rather than before (i.e., after a full stop, semi-colon, or comma). This is where our system deviates from the so-called PWN (Polish Scientific Publishers) standard, according to which the superscript numeral is placed before the punctuation mark, after the last word. Unfortunately, the PWN standard can sometimes engender misunderstandings and silly situations, such as these:

(a) Let us suppose that we want to put a citation number at the end of a sentence that ends like this: “[...] in the U.S.”. Where, in such a case, should we put it? Before the full stop? This would clash with one of the functions of the full stop, because not only does it end the sentence, but it also indicates an abbreviation; hence, putting the superscript numeral in front of it will undermine the latter function and make the sentence opaque. On the other hand, this problem disappears when we put it after the punctuation mark.

(b) Let us suppose that we want to put such a number at the end of a sentence discussing the number of atoms in the universe, whose closing words are “[...] is 10^{80} ”. Adhering to the PWN standard, we should put the citation number before the full stop, thus generating a faulty statement: “[...] is 10^{805} ”. In the Zielona Góra System this problem does not exist, as the citation numeral comes after the punctuation mark, giving us “[...] is 10^{80} .⁵”

When providing a link to the full, on-line version of the cited text, you should shorten the link by means of internet platforms such as <https://tiny.pl/> or <https://cutt.ly>. Shortened links should look like this: <https://cutt.ly/LvvW49N> [24.11.2019]; <https://tiny.pl/r82b2> [24.11.2019]. The link should be followed by the date of the last access, written in [dd.mm.year] format: i.e. [24.11.2017].

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Richard DAWKINS, **The Blind Watchmaker: Why the Evidence of Evolution Reveals a Universe without Design**, Norton & Company, London & New York 1986, p. 142; Paul K. FEYERABEND, **Against Method**, Verso, London 1993, p. 211.

(b) Subsequent citations: author's last name (in small caps); abbreviated title (or the whole title when it is short) ending with an ellipsis (which is treated as a punctuation mark substituting all the other bibliographical data of the text, rather than only the further part of the title); page number(s). Examples:

DAWKINS, **The Blind Watchmaker...**, p. 142; FEYERABEND, **Against Method...**, p. 211.

B. Quoting Articles, Reviews, etc.

(a) First citation: author's name (last name in small caps); title in quotation marks; in the case of a translation, "trans." followed by the translator's name; the name of the journal in italics and the year of publication; the number of the volume; the number or part of the volume; the page number; the first and last page of the text in square brackets; if the article appeared in a collective work, the citation should list the name of the editor followed by the abbreviation "ed." (in brackets) or its equivalent in other languages after the title or after the name of the translator; title of the collective work; publisher; place and year of publication; page (the first and the last page of the text in square brackets). Examples:

Dieter MÜNCH, "Minds, Brains and Cognitive Science", in: Armin BURKHARDT (ed.), **Speech Acts, Meaning and Intentions: Critical Approaches to the Philosophy of John R. Searle**, De Gruyter, Berlin 1990, p. 372 [367–390]; Gonzalo MUNÉVAR, "Allowing Contradictions in Science", *Metaphilosophy* 1982, Vol. 13, No. 1, p. 76 [75–78].

(b) Subsequent citations: author's last name (in small caps); abbreviated title ending with an ellipsis; page number(s). Examples:

MÜNCH, "Minds, Brains...", p. 372; MUNÉVAR, "Allowing Contradictions in Science...", p. 76.

Why do we prefer this method over more conventional ones?

Some authors, when referring to a given publication in the main text or a footnote, give the name of the author and the year of publication. To do so, they may use such formats as: Feyerabend 1965, Feyerabend [1965] or [Feyerabend 1965]. They add page number(s) after a comma or a colon: [Feyerabend 1965, p. 34] or [Feyerabend 1965: 34]. Full bibliographical details are then provided in the bibliographic index at the end of the publication. Some authors go even further and get rid of the author's name altogether, replacing it with the number of the entry in the bibliographic index, i.e. [34, p. 17] or [34: 17]. This citation system, together with its many variants, is arguably the worst possible one for researchers in the humanities; it has some serious flaws that I will now proceed to set out.

1) The method is good for citing works in the area of the natural sciences, where the only important thing is to pinpoint when, and by whom, a given discovery was documented in a publication, and not what the publication's title was. However, in the humanities, apart from the author's name and the year of publication, the title is also relevant. Let us imagine an essay which states: "As Popper showed in 1959, though it was contested by Kuhn in 1962...". It sounds bizarre, doesn't it? That is because we would normally phrase it like this: "As Popper showed in **The Logic of Scientific Discovery**, though it was contested by Kuhn in **The Structure of Scientific Revolutions**...".

2) Another major flaw of this method is that it is extremely easy to make a mistake. A finger might slip and we end up with a wrong date or a wrong letter (a, b, c, etc.) differentiating multiple publications by the same author during one year. On the other hand, when we make a small mistake in the title it is still recognizable. An author publishing a text in our journal had originally employed the method in question. When trying to adjust his work to comply with the Zielona Góra standard, he encountered difficulties due to errors that became apparent and hard to correct. This particular flaw is more forgiving towards works in the area of the natural sciences, as they tend to be shorter and cite less sources. As a result, it is much easier to avoid committing errors. However, texts in the humanities can be up to several times longer and contain many more bibliographical sources.

3) The third defect of the PWN standard is that it makes the footnotes for ancient writers appear quite odd: Aristotle 1985, Plato 2003, and so on. Providing the title of a publication or its abbreviation in accordance with Zielona Góra system appears natural regardless of the era in which the cited author lived. This

flaw is not as striking in works from the natural sciences, as they most frequently refer only to relatively recent publications. Usually, a physicist or astronomer will not be concerned with what Newton or Copernicus had to say about a given subject.

4) The last flaw of this system that we want to point out pertains to citations of authors who have “common” last names. Sometimes one needs to cite several people of the same name (e.g., Hintikka, or Nagel). It then becomes impossible to avoid mentioning the name, and so the approach becomes inconsistent: on one occasion the name is given, on another not.

All of the defects listed above can be avoided by simply providing the first and last name, title, and other bibliographical data for the publication, while quoting.

Why the first name and not, as is usually the case, just the initial? Firstly, because sometimes the name allows us to recognize the gender of the author, and on occasion even their nationality. (We recommend that authors avoid translating names into their Polish equivalents, unless they have already entered common use, as is the case with, for example, Karol Darwin.) If the name Henryk (Henryk Mehlberg) appears on the cover of the book **The Reach of Science**, it is clear that regardless of the author’s origin and place of residence, he identified as a Pole. Besides, it is simply worth knowing the names of the authors, as people are so frequently the object of our discussions in the humanities (as opposed to in the natural sciences, which deal mainly with problems for their own sake).

Why should the author’s last name be in small caps? For two reasons.

Firstly, sometimes the reader does not know what corresponds to the person’s first name, and what to their last name. For example, John Maynard Smith, the famous evolutionist, may pass among those who lack the necessary knowledge as a Smith with two Christian names: John and Maynard. However, his full last name is in fact MAYNARD SMITH, and his first name is John. Small caps prevent these misunderstandings.

Secondly, sometimes publications are written by several authors, and some names are also mentioned in the title. To give an authentic example: Joseph Agassi, Tristram Shandy, Pierre Menard, and All That: Comments on **Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge**, *Inquiry* 1971, Vol. 14, pp. 152–164. If we write the surname(s) of the author(s) in small caps, as in Joseph AGASSI, “Tristram Shandy, Pierre Menard, and All That: Comments on **Criticism and the Growth of**

Knowledge", *Inquiry* 1971, Vol. 14, pp. 152–164, then we disambiguate more clearly between Agassi alone writing an article on Shandy and Menard, and Agassi and Shandy and Menard jointly penning one that is exclusively about comments concerning **Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge**.

Why should the title of a book be in bold, and the title of an article not?

In the most popular Polish citation system — the so-called PWN standard — both book and article titles are written in italics. The primary disadvantage of this approach is that it makes it more difficult to identify the type of the publication (is it a book or an article?). Although it does not pose any problems in the first citation — if the publisher, place and year of publication are present, then we know we are dealing with a book, whereas if we see the title of a journal and then the issue number it suggests an article. But what happens with each subsequent citation? It is abbreviated: we do not repeat all the bibliographical details and so, if our memory fails us, we will have trouble deciphering whether we are dealing with an article or a book. Sometimes even a good memory won't help! Dennett wrote a book and an article with the same title: **Darwin's Dangerous Idea**. With an abbreviated citation, only the typeface will allow us to distinguish between the book and the article. Under the PWN System, these two publications are indistinguishable.

If citation rules applied exclusively to footnotes, then we might desist from placing article titles in inverted commas as recommended under the Zielona Góra Citation System. However, we sometimes want to include the title of an article in the main text. In such cases, if we do not put the title in inverted commas, then it will get mixed up with the rest of the text. We eliminate this difficulty by putting the titles of articles in inverted commas — and so, for the sake of consistency, should also do so in footnotes.

For the same reason — that of being rendered distinctive in the main text — journal titles should be written in italics.

An additional disadvantage of the PWN System is that it requires foreign words and expressions to be italicised, even as its norms demand that article titles be likewise written in italics. This leads to a problem when the publication title contains foreign expressions. How to mark italics within italics? This problem is solved by the Zielona Góra System. An authentic example: Nicholas Tiho MIROV, **The Genus *Pinus***, Ronald Press Co., New York 1967.

In the first citation, aside from the specified page number, the first and the last page of the article should be indicated in square brackets. Experience shows that it is extremely helpful from the author's perspective — they do not then need to revisit their sources when preparing their bibliography. It can also, on some occasions, help to identify errors.

In subsequent citations, an ellipsis is employed to indicate that some of the bibliographical data has been omitted.

C. Quoting Excerpts from Other Authors' Scientific Papers

If the excerpt extends beyond just a few words, separating it from the rest of the text as an indented block quote is highly recommended: use left-side indentation combined with a small space at the top and bottom, change the font size to 10 points, and apply single-line spacing. This paragraph serves as an example of said format:

This allows us to achieve a certain visual effect. The text becomes less monotonous and more nuanced and appealing. Excerpts taken from other people's work are highlighted and, consequently, easier to find again later.

However, if the quote is short, it will suffice to put it in quotation marks. In the case of longer excerpts, inverted commas should not be used, as the indentation and other typesetting changes produce the same effect.

Quoting works not translated into Polish is another important issue here. Quoting a text in its original language is strongly discouraged, and quoting both the original and the translation even more so. There is one exception to this rule: authors can, and even should, quote the original text if there exists an important reason to do so — e.g., if the original has some important features that cannot be properly translated into Polish (such as a certain ambiguity or allusiveness that could get lost in translation, or perhaps a play on words that usually cannot be reproduced in other languages, etc.). Another such reason might be that we are arguing against some author who referred to the passage in question and, in our opinion, was mistaken. In this case, we need to quote the original so that the reader believes us rather than the author we are arguing against. Yet another reason could be that the original text possesses some unique quality we wish readers to savour, such as its particularly deft phrasing or the acuity with which it

puts across some point, such that the excerpt merits being quoted in its original version. Depending on the length of such quote, we may include it in the main text or as a footnote.

D. References

The list of references should be sorted alphabetically by authors' last names. It should look like this:

BOYER Pascal, "Religion: Bound to Believe?", *Nature* 2008, Vol. 455, pp. 1038–1039.

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Krzysztof K. Kilian