

Presentation

Relation, Reason and Reality. Studies in Medieval Philosophy

Maria Cabré Duran

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
 mariacabre1706@gmail.com

Alexander Fidora

ICREA — Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
 alexander.fidora@icrea.cat

Jaume Mensa i Valls

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
 jaume.mensa@uab.cat



The present book has its origin in the 7th International Ibero-American Congress of the Spanish Society of Medieval Philosophy, which, on the occasion of the Seventh Centenary of Ramon Llull's death (1315/1316), took place at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and the Facultat de Teologia de Catalunya on November 14, 15 and 16, 2016. The subject of the congress was relation (*de relatione*). Its keynote lectures were published in the journal ENRAHONAR, number 61, while the section talks are gathered in the present book. These are, therefore, two complementary volumes, which form a unit of origin and subject matter.

In the *Presentation* of issue 61 of ENRAHONAR we emphasized the place which reflection on the category of relation occupied in ancient and, particularly, medieval philosophy. There, the reader will find contributions on this category from the points of view of logic, ontology and practical philosophy (especially political theory). The articles collected in the volume we present now expand on several aspects of this subject and extend it to other authors and areas. *Relation* remains, therefore, the central topic, though it is now connected to other fields of scholarly interest. Moreover, like the previous conferences of the Spanish Society of Medieval Philosophy, ours hosted free-theme sessions. Given the commemoration of the centenary of Ramon Llull's death, it will come as a no surprise that several articles deal with this Catalan thinker. Another group of studies is dedicated to Peter of Spain. The variety of approaches and interests is reflected in the volume's title *Relation, Reason and Reality. Studies in Medieval Philosophy*.

This book consists of thirty-five articles, distributed in seven thematic groups. The first, *Metaphysics and Theology: From Augustine to Thomas Aquinas*

nas, offers six studies on the metaphysics and theology of authors who lived between the 5th and 13th centuries. The second section, *Metaphysical and Theological Speculations after Duns Scotus*, composed of four articles, resumes the same topic, but focused on the period from the turn of the 13th to the 14th century up to the 17th. Most of the studies in this group are devoted to the work of Duns Scotus or Scotism. The third section, *Logic, Epistemology and Aesthetics*, brings together five related articles, which range from Augustine of Hippo to the height of medieval philosophy. The fourth section, *Anthropology, Psychology and Natural Philosophy*, features two articles on anthropology and psychology in St Augustine, one on the cosmology of Hermann of Carinthia and another one on natural philosophy in the New World.

The fifth and sixth sections bear a monographic character. The fifth section is dedicated to Ramon Llull. As is to be expected, it is the most extensive of all, since the conference was convened on the occasion of the Seventh Centenary of his death. It encompasses nine articles which deal with such diverse questions as the reception of the Mozarabic apologetics in the work of the *Doctor illuminatus*, the analysis of various aspects of his work and thought, such as the Art and its figures, music and ethics, gender, interreligious dialogue, and historical and modern Lullism. The sixth section, i.e. the 1st *Symposium Petrinicum*, contains six papers from a symposium dedicated to Peter of Spain, which present the results of the research of a project on this author directed by Professor José Meirinhos at the University of Porto.

The last section, *The Category of Relation in Arabic Philosophy*, is exceptional: it is made up of a single article, much more extensive than the rest of the contributions, by Professor Hans Daiber, entitled “*De praedicamento relationis in philosophia arabica et islamica*”. *The Category of Relation in Arabic-Islamic Philosophy (Extended Version)*. Professor Hans Daiber offered in his keynote lecture at the 7th Congress, published in ENRAHONAR 61, the results of this research. Here he elaborates *in extenso* on the topic: we believe that he offers a formidable *status quaestionis* of the reflections on relation in Arabic-Islamic philosophy. This section compensates to a certain degree the emphasis of the remaining articles in this book on Latin philosophy.

The organizers of the conference, Maria Cabré Duran, Alexander Fidora and Jaume Mensa i Valls, express their gratitude to the Spanish Society of Medieval Philosophy (SOFIME) and its members, as well as to the authors of this volume, who have submitted their articles to a double-blind peer review process and, as a result, have revised them rigorously for publication.