

Foreword

Ferenc Huoranszki's book (*Freedom of the Will: A Conditional Analysis*, New York: Routledge, 2011) testifies to the impressive revival of analytical philosophy in Hungary during the last twenty-five years or so. Undoubtedly, Huoranszki has been one of the protagonists of this revival. Readers of this book will quickly understand why. The work bears witness to his philosophical erudition, admirable attention to detail, and tenacious resourcefulness in defending his positions.

Arguably the greatest achievement of the book, however, is to have demonstrated that the possibility and nature of free will is not a sectarian issue of limited interest to the non-specialist. Huoranszki manages to drive the point home that the debate about the compatibility of free will and determinism is intimately tied up with central problems of metaphysics, the philosophy of sciences, and metaethics. The frequent historical references also make a persuasive case that the most influential contributions throughout the history of philosophy have always come from authors who appreciated just how multifaceted the problem of free will was.

This special issue is based on a workshop devoted to Huoranszki's book at the Central European University (CEU) in the autumn of 2011. Each contribution to the workshop was invited to focus on a different chapter of the book. However, the complexity of the book's conceptual apparatus made cross-chapter "transgressions" unavoidable and in fact quite welcome. The editors of the special issue decided to proceed in the same manner, and so some articles cover more than one chapter of *Freedom of the Will*.

We are happy to observe that the workshop and the special issue highlight the renaissance of analytical philosophy in Hungary and the significance of Huoranszki's work in another way as well. Many of the contributors are researchers early in their careers who were inspired and often taught by "Huo", as he is commonly known among friends, colleagues and students. We therefore have every reason to expect that this conversation will continue well into the future.

The editors wish to thank all this issue's authors and anonymous reviewers for their work, as well as David Robert Evans for his painstaking and impeccably

prompt copy-editing of the entire manuscript. We are also grateful to Professor Huoranszki for taking the time to reply to the authors with such care and at such length. We are confident that even hard-boiled connoisseurs of the free will literature will profit from perusing this exchange between Huoranszki and his critics.

Finally, it is our pleasure to acknowledge the financial and organizational support provided by the research project ‘What is it to be human?’ hosted by CEU’s Department of Philosophy and sponsored by the Hungarian Innovation Office (formerly NKTH) and Mag Zrt. In particular, we have greatly appreciated project leader Professor Gábor Betegh’s and project member Dr. Anna Réz’s dedication, without which neither the workshop nor this special issue would have been possible.

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