

Paper Abstract

Participatory and Critical Conception of Moral and Political Philosophy

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The presentation analyses and formulates a participatory and critical founding and methods of moral and political philosophy. The author of the presentation bases his conception on defining the three fundamental elements: *critique*, *explanation*, and *normativity*. He shows that this trichotomy expresses the basic dynamic of participatory moral and political philosophy which should proceed from (1) a critique of negative factors of societal reality via (2) an explanation of positive fragments to (3) the development of these fragments in a normative interpretation of society.

The trichotomy is founded on three basic approaches of individuals to reality, or more precisely, to a difficult reality and overcoming it. The first approach is *refusal (negation)*, the second by contrast is *acceptance (affirmation)* and the third is *formation (creation)*. This set of steps is not meanwhile a one-off approach; it is a repeating action by means of which the individual steps are more and more closely specified. In a table, the author of the presentation summarises bases of his complex conception of appropriate approaches to problems; he formulates the mutual relations of the elements of the trichotomy. The noun indicates the essence or basis of the interpretation, the adjective adds its principal characteristic.

<i>Combination of forms of interpretation</i>	Critical completion of the interpretation	Explanatory completion of the interpretation	Normative completion of the interpretation
Critique	X	explanatory critique	normative critique
Explanation	critical explanation	X	normative explanation
Normativity	critical normativity	explanatory normativity	X

If we focus on reductionist types of interpretation taken separately, as shown in the table in the first column on the left, one can say that *critique* taken separately corresponds, for example, to Walzer's philosophical criticism. *Explanation* taken separately is a reductionist form of interpretation which in a representative form appears especially in empiricist and (quasi)positivist theories in social sciences, which is currently the mainstream in social sciences. Current mainstream normative theories in moral and political philosophy are for the most part designated as separately understood *normativity*.

Reductions of criticism to critique, to explanation, or to normativity show that many attempts have stopped at the half-way stage in articulating moral and political philosophy. That is why more complex approaches (indicated in the table above) are needed. They will be explained in the presentation.

Marek Hrubec is an author, co-author and editor of 15 books and many papers. During the last period of time, he developed his own general theory of global justice and recognition, including a complex methodology of moral and political philosophy. The result of this long-term project was published in a book "Od zneuznání ke spravedlnosti" ("From Misrecognition to Justice") which was issued in the end of 2011 in the publishing house Filosofia, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague (562 pages). The book is being translated into English now, it will be published in 2014.