

Report on the activities of the DLMPST commission on the Philosophy of Technology and Engineering Sciences (2019/2020)

The activities of the DLMPST commission on the Philosophy of Technology and Engineering Sciences has been seriously hampered by the worldwide Covid19 crisis.

Report on the second DLMPST workshop in Prague, Czech Republic

At the 16th International Congress on Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science and Technology

Bridging Across Academic Cultures (Faculty of Architecture, Czech Technical University, Prague, Czech Republic 5–10 August 2019) the Commission on the Philosophy of Technology and Engineering Sciences organized its second workshop on:

Academic means-end knowledge in engineering, medicine and other practical sciences (AMEK) Tuesday, 6 August.

Its subject was: All aspects concerning the Means-End Knowledge as it is developed, researched and taught in Universities, where this means-end knowledge was assumed to be paraphrased in the canonical form: If you are in Context C and want to achieve Goal G execute Plan P. The idea was that this type of knowledge did fit the theme of the Congress.

There have been seven original submissions

- 791 Henri Salha: *Declarative and procedural knowledge: a recent mutation of the theory/practice duality and its significance in the era of computational science*
- 793 Mariam Thalos: *Challenges to clinical science*
- 836 Edison R. Silva, Domicio Proença Jr. and Roberto Bartholo; *Framing the problem: entrepreneurship as a scientific and a design discipline*
- 840 Sjoerd Zwart: *Interlocking Models validating Engineering Means-End knowledge (replaced by: Academic means-end knowledge from a Weberian perspective)*
- 911 Juan M. Durán and Nico Formanek: *Computational reliabilism: building trust in medical simulations*
- 934 Maarten Franssen: *Truth-values for technical norms and evaluative judgements: a comparative analysis*
- 950 Andres Santa-Maria: *How practical philosophy of technology can be? Some considerations on the teaching of philosophy of technology in Engineering programs*

Unfortunately, at the end of the day the submissions 793, 836, and 950 could not make it to the Congress and four papers were presented at well-attended meetings.

Work in progress

After the Scientific Adversary Board has been installed in 2018 the commission has invited Juan M. Durán to join its organizational forces. He has taken up this job with new élan and enthusiasm. Many of the new plans to be developed next year are his.

Statutes

In 2020 the technology commission has started to set-up its statutes, which will be discussed with the Secretary General of the DLMPST/IUHPST. These statutes will determine and state the identity of the commission and the regular patterns of activities. They will also install the governance structure answering question such as who are the members of the commission and when they meet, and how it is determined who governs the commission and how the Chair is chosen. Finally, the statutes should also fix the financial structure of the commission.

Website

With regard to the website of the Technology commission different hosting options have been studied. The criteria that are taken into account are: the liberty of the commission to design the website in accordance to its own desiderata, connection with the hosting organization, and last but not least the costs of the hosting. No final decision has been made. This is due in 2021.

Other Organizations

The Technology commission still wants to strengthen its relations with the fPET and the SPT. In 2019 connections have been established with Diane P. Michelfelder of the first and Pieter Vermaas of the second organization.

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