

# Inhabiting in the Frontiers of Thought: The contribution of Jesuit Philosophers to 20<sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy

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The contribution of Jesuits to the different fields of knowledge, including philosophy, is historically well known. In fact, since the foundation of the Society of Jesus, in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Jesuits of different generations have taken part in the philosophical debates of their time.

The Jesuits' willingness to engage in dialogue with different intellectual perspectives is certainly underpinned by one of the most defining traits of the Jesuit charism, namely the conviction that God can be found and served in all things. Accordingly, Jesuits have adopted, from the beginning, an amenable stance toward the world with its different cultures and intellectual trends. As such, Jesuits have, since the beginning, inhabited in the frontiers of human thought.

The 20<sup>th</sup> century was particularly complex in many respects. It would be enough to recall that this century, which brought with it unprecedented social, scientific, and technological developments, was also the stage for the two World Wars. The past century was fascinating also from the intellectual point of view, with the emergence or consolidation of philosophical currents such as Marxism, Phenomenology, Existentialism, Structuralism, and Post-Modernism. Faithful to their long tradition of being present in the frontiers of thought, many Jesuits have engaged in fruitful dialogue with these intellectual trends, offering relevant contributions to different ongoing debates.

In the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Revista Portuguesa de Filosofia* (Portuguese Journal of Philosophy), it is the goal of the present issue to recall and discuss the philosophical contribution of some of the most prominent Jesuit protagonists of this intellectual interchange. Some of the names that stand out are, among many others: Karl Rahner, Johannes B. Lotz, Erich Przywara and Joseph de Vries (Germany); Emerich Coreth (Austria); Bernard Lonergan (Canada); Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, Paul Valadier, Jean-Yves Calvez, Joseph de Finance, Michel de Certeau and Henri de Lubac (France); Carlo Giacon and Paolo Dezza (Italy); Joseph Maréchal (Belgium); Henrique de Lima Vaz (Brazil); Norris Clarke, Robert Spitzer, and Patrick Heelan (USA); Fredrick Copleston (UK); José Gómez-Caffarena and Juan Alfaro (Spain); Ignacio Ellacuría (Spain/El Salvador); Paweł Siwek (Poland); Júlio Fragata, and Diamantino Martins (Portugal).

Within this general scope, we invite original essays to the present RPF issue, addressing and discussing the specific contribution and innovation of Jesuit philosophers to philosophical fields such as: metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of science, ethics, political philosophy, ethics, etc.

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