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Evaluation of the academic achievements of doc. Ing. PhLic. Mgr. Ľuboš Rojka SJ, PhD.

bybayyje: hwentle in Systematic Philosophy at the Trnava University in Slovakia

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I have known P. L'uboš Rojka SJ for more than seven years. We have met several times at philosophical conferences in Rome at the Lateran University and Gregorian University. Both of us teach Philosophy of Religion, which is why we often focus on common topics. In the course of the last years, we had several personal meetings at which we discussed our papers in preparation for conferences and publications.

Current academic position

Several years ago, Ľuboš was invited to teach at the Philosophy Faculty of Gregorian University because of his international experience and recognition. He then became "Professore Stabile Straordinario". Gregorian University is one of the most important and prestigious universities in Rome. The Faculty of Philosophy, with more than 270 students (2019 2020) from all continents, is well known. Ľuboš is in charge of the entire specialization in Philosophy of Religion, which means that he teaches the most important courses required in this field for the Baccalaureate in Philosophy and for the same specialization in Licentiate/Master Program. Also, he is currently the supervisor of three Ph.D. candidates. Because of his trustworthiness and responsibility, he has also been elected to the University Senate.

Pedagogical experience

The pedagogical experience of Ľuboš is long-lasting (starting in 1999) and in different cultural contexts. He has been teaching at the Philosophy Faculties of several Jesuit universities in the USA, Slovakia, and Italy. Especially in Boston, it is well known that teaching is pedagogically very demanding because of a very high standard of Boston College and high expectations of the students. Before his full time teaching, Ľuboš attended many classes not only in Boston but also in Oxford, which certainly served him well for getting ready for teaching in English-speaking countries.

Conferences and Research Projects

Euboš organized several conferences in Rome, and I had a privilege to present my paper at one of them with more than 150 participants. He acted friendly and professionally. The conference was a great success, a fact which shows that he is an experienced organizer. Luboš also takes care of the annual conferences of the Society of Christian Philosophers in Czech and Slovak Republics and actively participates in the conferences of the Italian Association for the Philosophy of Religion. He is currently organizing the annual conference of this association, which will be held at Gregorian University (November 2020). In addition, he is a member of the Lonergan club and the Teilhard de Chardin Association in Rome, where he has been invited to share his ideas with their members.

Also, he is participating in an interesting project which is not contained in his Curriculum; namely, the Joint Diploma sul pensiero di San Tommaso d'Aquino, which is organized by the Pontifical Universities here in Rome. L'uboš was chosen as the representative for the Gregorian University, where he coordinates the professors and courses required for the Joint Diploma.

Publications

The monograph L'eternità di Dio is one of the few books written on this topic in Italian. L'uboš knows well the Oxford tradition, especially the philosophical system of Richard Swinburne and William Lane Craig, two outstanding thinkers in the contemporary analytical philosophy of religion. In the context of the Italian philosophy (which is strongly Continental), L'uboš' publication is something new and is drawing attention because of an increasing interest in the analytical philosophy of religion.

In addition to more than forty-four peer-reviewed papers required for the inauguration, I believe it should be mentioned that Luboš published more than twenty-five "nonscientific" articles and seventeen reviews (plus one non listed). On closer inspection, in fact, they are not really "nonscientific"; many of them would satisfy academic standards, even though they are not peer-reviewed. Furthermore, some of them are in English, which shows an authentic personal interest in philosophy and positive relations with his fellow philosophers whose books he reviewed and commented.

Among L'uboš' peer-reviewed papers, I especially value the ones he devoted to the beginning of the universe and the problem of horrendous evil. About them, we had great exchange of opinions.

In conclusion, these are some of the major reasons, for which I strongly recommend to proceed with the inauguration of Ľuboš Rojka to full professorship in Systematic Philosophy.

Rome, 23th April 2020



prof. Roberto Di Ceglie