



Editorial

As you will notice, the configuration of this issue differs from that of previous ones. In 2023, the Editorial Board of *Tattva Journal of Philosophy* resolved to organize an annual conference on contemporary philosophical issues. The first outcome of this initiative was an international conference on *(Art)ificial Intelligence and the Problems of Language, Thinking, and Writing: Interrogations to Jacques Derrida*. The conference was organized by *Tattva Journal of Philosophy* in collaboration with the *Department of English and Cultural Studies of Christ (Deemed to be University)*, Bangalore, and *Panihati Mahavidyalaya*, Kolkata. It took place on December 14-15, 2023. This issue's thematic section comprises the papers presented at the aforementioned conference. As the organizers of the conference, Namitha Shivani Iyer, Avirup Ghosh, and Mithilesh Kumar, indicate in their introduction, the papers presented at the conference address a range of issues pertaining to literary theory, the inherent bias of Artificial Intelligence and the question of ethics, the problem of identity in cyberspace and digital identities, post-truth media, and newer modes of reading and literary criticism. The Derridean perspective guarantees that these questions will be discussed in innovative and challenging ways.

The second section comprises two brief papers presented by students who served as research assistants during the conference. They provide reflections on the issues raised in the initial section. The first reflection is presented by Sinchana Shetty and addresses the intricate challenges that academic instructors and learners are confronted with. These complexities pertain to the tension between a historical and a thematic approach within the curriculum, the challenge of achieving an appropriate balance between theoretical insights, their application to a concrete case or text, and a critical reflection on the whole process, the necessity of situating a learned theory in a broader intellectual and socio-economic context, and the difficulty of involving learners actively in the lectures and fostering their critical thinking. The second reflection, by Soumili Datta, offers a critical examination of the proliferation of popular buzzwords that have become tools

for interpreting literary texts. Unfortunately, these buzzwords prevent learners from internalizing the learned theory. Moreover, the “buzzword approach” in some courses presents an obstacle for learners to externalize the theory, that is, to apply it productively in other contexts and texts. To remove this obstacle, a particular theory or philosophy should not be regarded as a rigid yardstick but rather as a flexible, lead rule that adapts to the text under examination, as Aristotle famously described it. Another issue with many curricula is that the presentation of philosophical and literary theories often lacks contextualization and that these theories are not confronted with counter-theories. It is evident that Derrida’s concept of deconstruction presents a vast, yet largely untapped, opportunity to reinvigorate the theoretical framework of literary theory and criticism.

The concluding section of this publication is dedicated to a philosophical examination of the social phenomenon of martial art. In her paper, “Beyond the Weapons: The Philosophy of *Kalaripayattu*, a South Indian Martial Art,” Ashitha Mandakathingal demonstrates that *Kalaripayattu* is not merely a combat system; it also represents a unique ideology that intertwines the body, mind, and spirit. The author employs Merleau-Ponty’s concept of the “lived body” to examine the non-dualistic nature of *Kalaripayattu*. By examining the various dimensions of this art form, the essay aims to elucidate its significance as a cultural and intellectual pursuit that transcends mere physical combat.

On behalf of the Editorial Board, I wish you much intellectual pleasure as you peruse the articles in this issue. It is my sincere hope that the quality and the philosophical and societal relevance of these papers will motivate you to participate in one of the forthcoming conferences, organized by *Tattva Journal of Philosophy*.

Peter Jonkers
Editor-in-chief