

Human **Existence**
and **Coexistence**
in the Epoch of **Nihilism**

Menschliche **Existenz**
und **Koexistenz**
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Človeška **eksistenca**
in **koeksistenca**
v epohi **nihilizma**

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HUMAN EXISTENCE AND COEXISTENCE IN THE EPOCH OF NIHILISM
MENSCHLICHE EXISTENZ UND KOEXISTENZ IN DER EPOCHE DES
NIHILISMUS

ČLOVEŠKA EKSISTENCA IN KOEKZISTENCA V EPOHI NIHILIZMA

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INTRODUCTORY WORD

The consideration of the relationship between *humanism and nihilism* today, especially under the influence of scientific and technological progress and global social situation, is mostly approached from the perspective of post-humanism. Since we are witnessing the violence of dehumanization all over the world, such a perspective proves to be theoretically and practically inadequate.

At the same time, it should be stressed that *the epochal experience of nihilism* is not only a consequence of the many social crises, which we are facing in the contemporary world, and the psychopathologies that these crises generate, but it *fundamentally predetermines them at an existential and coexistential level*. In all human agency, in all that we advocate as “cultural growth,” “social development,” “rise of education,” “creative excellence,” “scientific and technological progress,” “open markets,” “democratic rights and freedoms,” along with “belief in God,” the question of how man fulfills himself in his humanity has become problematic today in a way that is perhaps historically unprecedented.

This, of course, raises further questions about *the value foundations, upon which human agency is based, as well as about interpersonal communication and the relationship to the common life-world*. In various academic, cultural, and political forums, the need to develop a universally valid ethics that overcomes the devaluation of the meaning of humanity and makes possible a new humanization is often mentioned. However, any effort to establish ethical

responsibility more consistently in social reality is in itself insufficient, if it does not respond to *the nihilistic challenge* that pervades *the contemporary world as a whole*, and not just its individual occurrences.

Dean Komel,
with Alfredo Rocha de la Torre and Adriano Fabris

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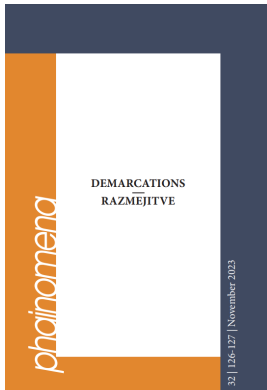
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