



PHILOSOPHY COLLOQUIUM

Pablo Guadarrama González

Universidad Nacional de Colombia

“Philosophy in Cuba: Retrospective and Prospective Views”

Friday, May 4, 2018

Knight Physics Bldg., Room 334

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

The development of philosophy in Cuba has its antecedents in the scholarly work that emerged from debates surrounding the conditions of indigenous people and African slaves. Modern philosophy was developed in Cuba by José Agustín Caballero in the late 18th century but achieved its greatest advances in the first half of the 19th century with Félix Varela and José de la Luz y Caballero. Although eclecticism and spiritualism tried to take over, they could not predominate over the *sui generis* positivism of Enrique José Varona and Manuel Sanguily, among others. In all of them, ethical concerns were very prominent, along with socio-political ideas in the fight against Spanish colonialism. These concerns found in José Martí one of its best expressions. In the 20th century, at the beginning of the Republican life, there was still a strong influence of positivism, but soon a critical reaction against it emerged. Pragmatism tried to blossom but did not manage to find followers in the philosophical environment, although it did in the pedagogical one. Gradually phenomenology, existentialism, structuralism and Marxism increased their influence. After the triumph of the revolution, Marxism was developed as the predominant philosophy in official educational institutions although with different interpretations. The growing exchange of ideas between Cuban intellectuals and representatives of other philosophical currents has enabled a better reciprocal understanding of their epistemological potential.

Pablo Guadarrama González is Professor of Philosophy at Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Universidad Católica de Colombia as well as Università degli Studi Di Salerno (Italy). He is a member of the Academy of Sciences of Cuba, Doctor in Sciences (Cuba) and Doctor in Philosophy (Germany), as well as Doctor Honoris Causa in Education (Peru) and Honorary Professor at the Universidad Central de Las Villas, Santa Clara, Cuba. He is the author of several books on the theory of culture and on the history of Latin American philosophical thought. He has been a speaker at many international conferences and has taught graduate courses in several Latin American universities, as well as in Germany, Spain, Russia, Italy, Japan, and the USA.

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