

An appraisal of the dissertation *How philosophy should be done* of Fernando Vásquez

Fernando Vásquez studied philosophy and history at the University of Panama, where he obtained his degree of specialist in philosophy, after defending the work „Alfred Tarski and the semantic conception of truth“ (2012). He entered the philosophy doctoral program at UHK in 2014. Currently he works as a research assistant at the faculty of humanities at the University of Panama.

Fernando Vásquez started to work on his dissertation with the decision to work in the methodology of philosophy. It has taken a lot of philosophizing before the ideas were able to assume a concrete shape. The first versions of his dissertation concentrated on the very concept of method – an interesting topic, beyond doubt, but not one that would make up for a viable dissertation. It was only then that he understood that what should be added to this are some case studies scrutinizing methods of philosophy at work, *viz.* those engaged by some prominent philosophers. Over the years, he became interested also in experimental philosophy and in cognitive linguistics, which also influenced the final shape of his work.

The first two chapters of the dissertation introduce us into the very problem of method of philosophy and survey some recent debates over its nature. The case studies constitute the third chapter: the philosophers discussed in detail by the author are Plato, Descartes and Russell. The next chapter deals with a more specific problem: the role of metaphor *vis-à-vis* philosophical methodology. He concentrates also on the metaphorical aspects of the concept of method and indicates how theories of metaphor can help us understand the nature of philosophy and its methodology.

The dissertation of Fernando Vásquez does not bring any philosophically path-breaking results. Despite this it is, I believe, a useful retrospect of how philosophy has been done together with the author's considerations about its possible prospects. In view of the fact that methodology of philosophy is usually not paid as much attention as it would deserve, it is, I think, a helpful piece of philosophical work.