

Abstract of the diploma thesis

Janoščík Václav

The Concept of Autonomy

(Conditions of modern subjectivity, of the concept of law and of historicity)

Submitted thesis aims at articulation of the concept of autonomy in its complexity. At first it pursues specific contexts of the notion to arrive at its structure. At first we try to explore perspective of analytical philosophy of law to situate the concept of autonomy to the heart of the idea of law. This efforts unfolds itself by an unorthodox interpretation of natural right theory of Herbert Hart's early work. Second chapter discusses the framework of the philosophy of history, that are based on the idea of an autonomous subject. Seemingly paradoxical linkage of Heidegger's fundamental ontology and Kosík's dialectics of the particular articulates the historical function of the autonomy. Next chapter connects Kosík with Cornelius Castoriadis in the perspective of social theories. Also in their normative core we can identify our notion of autonomy. Fourth chapter follows the theory of disenchantment of the world of Marcel Gauchet. We reformulate it as a realization of the ideal of autonomous subject in order to contextualize the concept historically. Last topic of the first part is the framework of the intellectual history. Here we situate Dieter Henrich and Jürgen Habermas to as underlying the modern emancipatory process by the concept of autonomy.

Second part of our research follows the history of the concept, concerning mainly three of its cornerstones. Firstly we trace the very foundation of our normative discourse in the Aristotelian ethics and politics. In these roots already we postulate the necessity of autonomy. One of its pinnacles is by no doubts the social contract theory. By discussing its classical conceptions by Hobbes and Rousseau we aim at highlighting their legal core mediated by the concept of autonomous subject. Last chapter of this part concerns Kant who founded his whole philosophical edifice on the notion of autonomous subject. Hence the autonomy forms not only a leading principle of his practical philosophy but we can find it even in his methodological background. Analogically we want to demonstrate that autonomy is not only one of the legal principles but also that it rather opens the possibility of the law in modern sense.

Our research thus penetrates vast field of interdisciplinary sources in order to defend original propositions concerning the structure and genealogy of the concept of autonomy in order not only to elevate its historical relevance, but also to open its conceptual value within the field of methodology of legal theory.