

International Conference of Philosophy for Children

**Responsibility for the Future: New Philosophical
Foundations of Peace and Justice**

November 7–10, 2019 in Graz/Austria

**University of Graz,
Meerscheinschlössl, Mozartgasse 3
8010 Graz**

In regard to the current global political situation, the topic's relevance cannot be ignored. Every day we are confronted with a constant stream of bad news and at the same time, daily life seems to go on as usual.

Is it entirely natural for shocking events to become a matter of routine and normality? Are merely young people particularly sensitive to human rights issues, climate change, peace and justice? How can philosophy help us to gain a reflected position to the current events and to find adequate words to describe them?

We are all aware that we are facing great challenges, because we are confronted with rapid developments in the well-known processes of climate change, globalisation, digitalisation, and artificial intelligence. This concerns the different forms of society and government and, in particular, the different global and strategic partnerships. For example, climate change is a global problem that could significantly and irreversibly change life on our planet. The consequences of climate change and the inequalities in the damage caused have clearly shown that the future debate on global justice will play an increasingly important role. The causes of climate injustice in the world are being repeatedly pointed out: Unlimited economic growth, disparities between the poor and the rich, war-like conflicts, racism, insecurity, and especially the effects of climate change on the world's poor. In the future, climate change will have an increasing effect not only on ecosystems but also on stability and peace of states and societies. Will climate change become a threat to peace?

It is, therefore, becoming more relevant than ever to make people more aware of peace and justice. This also applies to the rapidly changing conditions for the individual and society, above all because increasing digitalisation, artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics spark changes that affect governmental, non-governmental and also individual dimensions. The race for future technologies has begun – the development towards society 4.0 and is accompanied with a complete intertwining of man and machine. Do we lose our self-conception as free subjects to the algorithm as most concise form of machine intelligence? Will self-learning systems in the future be able to plan more reasonable than fallible humans? What incredible opportunities and risks does this development entail? How do we want to deal with the potential of artificial intelligence in our society? Who is really responsible for the future generations?

The central aim of conference is to elaborate, at least gradually, the connections between cognition, perception, and reality in their complex and dynamic structure, in order to facilitate understanding and to develop qualitatively and quantitatively valid arguments for peace and justice.

Governments around the world negotiate the future of our planet, but one important group of our society is often missing in these negotiations—children and adolescents. However, the responsibility to deal with the arising problems lies exactly with the adolescents in the different countries. They are the ones who ultimately have to implement and achieve the global agreements and goals.

For this reason and in regard to intergenerational justice, it is necessary to face each other more directly, more open and more differentiated (e.g. “dialogue of the generations“). This is especially important in the context of current focus programs and movements (e.g. “Fridays for Future“ and “Me too“) which strive through sensitization and reflection to an intensified cognitive appreciation, in particular by young people.

This year's conference is planned as an inter- and transcultural forum which enables philosophical debates to take place on current phenomena and build bridges to other scientific disciplines. It is an important goal of the conference to initiate the exchange of different approaches and thus to provide a further knowledge base for educational concepts as well as for educational policy initiatives.

The main topics of the conference are as follows:

- Relations between reality and virtuality
- Problems of nationalism
- Discourse: Power and language
- Intergenerational justice
- Community of Inquiry
- Pluralistic democracy and human rights
- Freedom and self-determination
- Justice in a globalised world
- Philosophy and digitalisation
- Responsibility for the environment and living beings
- Philosophical perspectives and educational processes