

**Professor Dr. Matjaž Potrč**



University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

**1. Who was your supervising tutor at the University of Würzburg?**

My visit at the University of Würzburg happened under supervision of Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Baumgartner at the Residenz Franz Brentano Institute of Philosophy. There I encountered Angelo Marocco (Rome), Dieter Münch (Berlin), Dale Jacquette (Penn State, Switzerland). The journal *Acta Analytica* (now Springer) that I founded was published by Roell Verlag Dettelbach Würzburg. In nineties I was coordinator of a TEMPUS project Phenomenology and Cognitive Science (Ljubljana, Würzburg, Berlin, London, Graz, Trieste) that I started there; a textbook with the same title (E. Baumgartner and others eds.) was published by Roell Verlag. I am a member of Franz Brentano Society.

**2. We would be happy to get to know something about your academic/ professional career and it would be nice if you could describe your professional work in a few words.**

I am a philosopher with a broad spectrum of interests, teaching at University of Ljubljana Slovenia EU. My coming to Würzburg is related to the Brentanian tradition, to which I was drawn by my studies of the Slovene Meinongian pupil F. Veber. As I am interested in both continental and analytic traditions in philosophy, I co-organized a Spindel conference about their common roots, *The Origins* (proceedings are published in the *Southern Journal of Philosophy*). I started with some Heideggerian interests in Ljubljana and for a while pursued an ecological approach. Then in seventies I received the grant of French government to study semiotics with Kristeva and psychoanalysis with Lacan in Paris. In eighties I received Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung grant for my studies of philosophy of language and mind with Wolfgang Stegmüller in München. In nineties I studied connectionism and philosophy of psychology with Terry Horgan and John Tienson in Memphis, TN. I published numerous articles and several books, including *Austere Realism* (with T. Horgan), MIT Press 2008, *Practical Contexts* (with Vojko Strahovnik), Ontos Verlag 2005, *Challenging Moral Particularism* (editor, with M. Lance and V. Strahovnik), Routledge New York 2009. I published several chapters in books by MIT, OUP, Ontos. My current interests include moral philosophy, philosophy of cognitive science, philosophy of mind and phenomenology, vagueness, ontology. In ontology I defend a monistic view, compatible with common sense due to the construal of truth as indirect correspondence. In moral philosophy I defend a generalism friendly particularism. I am interested in the question of relevance. In epistemology I defend evidential reliabilism. My interpretation of vagueness is transvaluationist.

**3. Do you have any experience regarding a scientific or economic exchange between India and the European Union?**

I know that some of my books are distributed in India, besides to other countries. During my organizing of Veber and Keith Lehrer symposium we invited Sandhya Basu from India with whom I had some interaction; she

was due to arrive at a current Austrian conference but did not make it. I would be interested to have collaboration with some Indian institution in my field. I was not in India yet but heard descriptions of visits there. The rich culture of India is certainly different from the European and it is fascinating; but I think that a scientific exchange is possible and can be fruitful if there are common interests. I know that traditions in logic and in philosophy of mind are similar in their basis.

**4. What do you think about the importance of Alumni in terms of the cultural, academical and economical exchange?**

Alumni offer the possibility of cultural, academic and economical exchange between India and EU. The Würzburg meeting will certainly offer an environment to institute some such links, so I look forward to it.