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May 5, 2022

Dear Professor Kupś:

I am responding to the decision to cancel a thematic issue of *Studies in the History of Philosophy* devoted to Russian religious philosophy. Your announcement states that the issue has been canceled because “there is a danger that the presentation of the achievements of Russian religious thinkers of the 19th and 20th centuries may also be used for propaganda purposes.” *

I oppose this decision for two reasons. First, *if* —hypothetically — the achievements of Russian religious thinkers constitute “a danger,” this is all the more reason to study and discuss them. I believe that philosophy and religion thrive on ideas that are deemed to be dangerous.

Second, Russian thought and culture are instrumental to our teaching, our writing, and our art. Nikolai Berdyaev, Leo Tolstoy, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Alexandra Exter, Natalia Goncharova — these and countless others have enlightened philosophers, scholars, and artists throughout the world. Many of us, myself included, love and admire the people of Russia, their culture, and their achievements — no amount of suppression or censorship will change this. I ask you to reconsider your decision. Fear and enmity, and the blindness that springs from them, are the real dangers. I believe it is wrong to capitulate to those who wish to silence us.

Yours truly,

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* [Statement](https://apcz.umk.pl/szhf/announcement/view/159) posted March 2, 2022 (<https://apcz.umk.pl/szhf/announcement/view/159>). It should be noted that this statement contradicts the journal’s ethical standards (see [1. EDITOR’S DUTIES](#) at <https://apcz.umk.pl/szhf/about>).

The views expressed here are my own and do not necessarily represent the official position of my employer.

cc:

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