

## **Abstract**

Irving Singer's theory of value declares itself a member of american naturalistic and pragmatic tradition. It refuses metaphysical speculation on behalf of empirism and stresses the processual character of every experience, focusing more on its imaginatively-affective rather than rational part. Singer distinguishes two basic types of valuation: *appreciation* of an object, seen as an instrument for a given function, and spontaneous *bestowal of value*, which values the object on the basis of its own qualities – generating an affective attachment in the process. In a healthy organism, both ought to cooperate to support the fullness of life-in-the-world. Their harmonization is a matter of *aesthetics* as recognized in the case of love or works of art.

This thesis criticizes Singer's project from its own point of view – the american naturalism. In the first chapter, it describes closely Singer's point-of-departure and places it within historical tradition. The matter of the „intrinsic value controversy“ is drawn here as well. Following two chapters probe into the pillars of Singer's systém – the conceptions of *appreciation*, *bestowal*, *imagination* and *idealization*. In comparison with the doctrines of John Dewey, George Santayana and christian situational ethics, fundamentally eclectic character of Singer's systém is disclosed, as are its inherent logical flaws. The thesis concludes in comparing these historical axiological projects and proposing a question about the relation of axiology to epistemology, which needs to be cleared by any coming value theory.

## **Klíčová slova**

*Naturalism, axiology, an experience, aesthetic value*