

Reference of PhD Supervisor

PhD Student: Ivan Gutierrez M.A.

Title of the Dissertation: On the Incorporation of Technological Tools

Before coming to Prague Ivan Gutierrez studied philosophy and mathematics at State University of New York at Binghamton and obtained his M.A. in philosophy at University of Wisconsin – Madison. He started his PhD. studies at the Faculty of Arts of the Charles University in 2010. While working on his thesis “On the Incorporation of Technological Tools“, he was very active in academic teaching. At the Faculty of Humanities of the Charles University he taught two courses focused on the topic of his dissertation. He also regularly lectured at the Anglo-American University in Prague, where he is in charge of the philosophy courses. Besides the preparation of his dissertation he wrote several articles related to the topic of his thesis and translated numerous philosophical articles.

The dissertation “On the Incorporation of Technological Tools” is dedicated to the phenomenological exploration of new media and technologies. Ivan Gutierrez attempts to evaluate the analytical potential of phenomenology (represented mainly by Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty and Sartre) with respect to the transformation of our bodily experience conditioned by the use of modern technological devices. When critically examining the potential of phenomenology, he focuses on the phenomena of corporeality, intentionality, agency, autonomy, freedom, privacy, etc. He analyses the meaning of all these phenomena in the experiential field of our interaction with modern technological tools. For this reason, he also pays attention to postphenomenology and does not hesitate to compare phenomenological approach with the analytic philosophy.

Ivan Gutierrez did not conceive his dissertation as an implementation of a ready-made idea. To the contrary, he was ready to question and correct his original insights, which allowed him to produce a highly complex philosophical argument. Since he previously studied philosophy in the U.S, the biggest challenge for him was to move from the evidence based arguments to a more systematic and historic argumentation. Thanks to his diligence and open-mindedness, he managed to make this shift and enriched his philosophical expertise with a new perspective. As his supervisor, I have entirely enjoyed the privilege of witnessing such a creative transformation. Even though Ivan Gutierrez worked independently, he was constantly open to a philosophical dialogue. He has gained my utter respect and I believe that he has written a dissertation that merits an international attention. Especially, if one takes into consideration that his dissertation is not concerned with a legitimization of Heidegger’s or Sartre’s political

idiosyncrasies, but merely with an effectiveness of their philosophical concepts regarding our interaction with new media and technologies. For a deliberate restriction of a philosophical argument is, in my opinion, an advantage, rather than a failure.

Petr Kouba, PhD

In Prague, 30th May 2018