

## Preface

Rationality is the belief that clarity can only be reached  
by pushing explanation to its utmost limits.

Alfred N. Whitehead

Knowledge and reason are threatened today as rarely before,  
and with them everything human, perhaps human existence itself.

Józef M. Bocheński

Herbert Schnädelbach, in an essay published in 1981, *Über Irrationalität und Irrationalismus* (On Irrationality and Irrationalism), used the mirror as a metaphor for rationality and irrationality: irrationalism would be the way in which irrationality reflects itself in rationality and irrationalism is also a result of such a reflection.

We present this collection of multifaceted and deliberately heterogeneous contributions concerned **irrationalism** and its opponent, i.e. **anti-irrationalism**. Perhaps both history and prospects of contemporary methodological reflection could be described as a more or less subtle game played by exactly these two opponents. At the same time, the collection consists of studies in clarity (in the Whiteheadian sense of the word **rationalism**).

Kazimierz Ajdukiewicz (1890–1963), a Polish logician and philosopher, has been chosen to be the patron of our project since he defended an anti-irrationalistic view of science and philosophy. Let us take this opportunity to emphasize that exactly fifty years ago the English translation of the book *Die zeitgenössischen Denkmethode* by J.M. Bocheński was published, and the Spanish version appeared a little earlier. Bocheński was a strong adherent of the use of logical techniques even in religious matters and theology.

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