

## The Onset of University Studies in Philosophy and Humanistic Education in Kaunas: Signs of Sociocultural Values

### Summary

The article aims to analyze the cohesion of the disciplines of Philosophy and Education at the University of Lithuania founded in 1922, and the start of the formation of the theoretical orientation of studies. The article also considers the contribution of scholarly personalities to the promotion of interdisciplinary studies at the University of Lithuania. The article attempts to find out whether these studies turned out to be the basis for the development of students' worldview and the enhancement of their cultural sociality.

The evidence presented in the article shows that the founders of the University of Lithuania created a model of a classical European university, which was closely associated with professional training, intellectual education, and the studies focused on fostering an environment of cultural sociality.

The disciplines of Philosophy and Pedagogical Education were started to be taught to students both at the Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Theology-Philosophy of the University of Lithuania. The interdisciplinary nature of the Philosophy disciplines and Education programmes is evident in the statutes, study programmes of these faculties as well as in other sources.

During the formative years of Higher Courses and later studies at the University of Lithuania, the contribution of Pranas Dovydaitis is significant in terms of the development of the teaching content of the disciplines of Philosophy and Education. He highlighted the coherence of scientific progress, the cohesion between the development of society and culture, and the urgency of the education of human spirituality in a modernizing society, as well as other values.

Stasys Šalkauskis' pedagogical activities and teaching materials for students were of particular importance in bridging the theoretical foundations the studies of in Philosophy and Pedagogy; Stasys Šalkauskis emphasised the relevance of the shaping of the worldview, also the historical and theoretical coherence between Philosophy and the education of society. His lectures addressed issues of human education, the interactions between the intelligentsia and society. S. Šalkauskis tried to link the theoretical and practical aspects of pedagogical studies with studies in philosophy. His attention to ethics, aesthetics, logic, philosophy of culture, and the philosophy of religion was especially notable.

The theoretical contribution of Pranas Kuraitis, Izidorius Tamošaitis, as well as

the theoretical contribution of Vosilius Sezeman and Lev Karsavin, who came to Kaunas, was of great importance in the development of studies in philosophy and history of culture, as well as educational studies at the University of Lithuania. The scholars focused on the enhancement of the international and interdisciplinary nature of the studies.

The teaching of philosophy and pedagogy became an integral part of the theoretical and applied studies not only in the field of the Humanities, but also in other disciplines, which promoted the strengthening of the interdisciplinary approach and the formation of the foundations for

the education of humanistic intellectuals. The content of the studies was shaped by an appreciation of the educational role of philosophy in promoting moral and social ideals in young people and society. Philosophers of the University developed concepts of moral and cultural education, which were essential for the introduction and development of teacher training studies at the University. These concepts also contributed to the development of students' attitudes towards socio-cultural activity.

The foundations of the educational purpose of philosophy as well as of other Humanities disciplines have not lost their relevance in modern society.

**Keywords:** University of Lithuania, studies in philosophy, pedagogy, Kaunas, Republic of Lithuania.