Dear Friends:

Welcome to Taiwan!

It is my greatest honour and pleasure to welcome all participants of the 4th Taiwan Metaphysics Colloquium (TMCIV-2020) ― A Workshop on Realism-Antirealism Debates.

The TMCs is a series of biennial conferences founded in 2013 and hosted by the Department of Philosophy at National Taiwan University, accompanied with the Taiwan Philosophical Logic Colloquium (TPLCs, established since 2012). Funding is mainly sourced from the Wendy Huang Program, based on an annual donation by Miss Wendy Huang and her Shun Yih Ltd. The primary concern of this funding is to promote the research of logic and analytic philosophy and related fields in contemporary philosophy in Taiwan.

The TMCs intends to provide a forum for dialogues amongst researchers working on traditional metaphysical issues/problems, but not exclusively, from a variety of contemporary perspectives, such as philosophical logic, the philosophy of language, the philosophy of mind, to mention a few.

To narrow the scope of the discussions and to enhance the interaction among the speakers, we set a main theme for each TMC conference. We have put forth ‘the realism-antirealism debates’ as the main theme of TMCIV. As is well-known, the realism-vs.-antirealism debate is very complex, intricate, long-lasting and ubiquitous, in character. It has appeared in a large number of philosophical concepts/issues, ranging from universals (with regard to general terms and properties since the middle age) to controversial mathematical entities, unobservable theoretical entities in scientific theories, meaning in the philosophy of language, qualia in the philosophy of mind, and more recently modal reality in modal discourse and some fundamental concepts in meta-ethics, to mention a few. We will mainly focus (not exclusively) on five topics:

(i)  Objectivity in Mathematics and Logic

(ii) Structural Realism and Philosophy of Mind

(iii) The Identity of Indiscernibles

(iv) Meta-ethical Robustness

(v) Expressivism

Following the tradition of TMCs and TPLCs, we have invited a group of renowned philosophers and promising young researchers from Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, UK, USA, together with some contributed talks from young scholars in Asian area, and some other institute worldwide. We thank all speakers and participants to come and join us on this special occasion. And hope this will be an inspiring and rewarding conference.

In particular, we would like to thank all referees who look at the submitted abstracts, including Jamin Asay, Ralf Bader, Daniel Berntson, John Bigelow, Lok-Chi Chan, Max Cresswell, Duen-Min Deng, Michael Duncan, Wei Fang, Robert Goldblatt, Simon Goldstein, Paul Hovda, Nihel Jhou, Joe YF Lau, Mary Leng, Hanti Lin, Hsuan-Chi Lin, Penelope Maddy, Dan Marshall, Graham Oppy, Paolo Santorio, Nicholas J. J. Smith, Hsing-Chien Tsai, Shiu-Hwa Tsu, Ren-June Wang, Christian Wenzel, Tong-Ying Wu, and some others.

We wish all of you enjoy yourself on this special occasion not only as an academic but also as a tourist during your brief stay in Taipei, the biggest and historic city of Taiwan, The Island of Beauty (Formosa).

Many thanks again for your participation which will make this event much more rewarding.

Syraya C. M. Yang

Chair

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