

The Movement in Defense of Philosophy in Mexico

Overview of the things done in defense of Philosophy at the High School level, a 3-year educational *preparatoria* or *bachillerato* program taken before enrollment into a college or university, in Mexico.

Traditionally, in Mexico, Philosophy had always been part of the High School Core Curriculum in order to ensure that students received an integral education and solid humanistic formation before entering higher level education. However in October 2008, the current government administration implemented an Education Reform, known as “Reforma Integral de la Educación Media Superior” (RIEMS), in which not only was Philosophy eliminated, but the entire field of humanities was eradicated.

The authorities have not yet explained the reasoning behind these measures. However, it is clear to us that such reform is in alignment with the OECD technocratic model of education through which students are offered an “instruction” rather than an education in order to meet the needs of production processes and where humanistic formation holds no relevance.

In the face of this situation, a group of philosophy professors decided to create an organization, named Observatorio Filosófico de México (OFM), under which all Philosophy Associations in Mexico were embraced.

Its first objective was to reincorporate Philosophy courses (Logic, Ethics, Aesthetics, and Introduction to Philosophy) into the curriculum. After an intense battle in the media, which included a full-page newspaper ad signed by all Philosophy faculties, universities, scientific associations and important personalities, including the current President of FISP, Dr. William McBride, Past President Dr. Evandro Agazzi and the current General Secretary, Dr. Luca Scarantino, federal government authorities backed down. An agreement was signed by federal government officials and published in the *Diario Oficial de la Federación* (DOF): Acuerdo 488 del 23 de Junio de 2009, translated “the Official Gazette of the Federation”. Through this agreement, both Philosophy courses and the field humanities were to be re-established in the High School Core Curriculum.

Despite this contract, the authorities have been reluctant to respect the agreement and to this day no measures have been put in place to fulfill it. Therefore, we are continuing this fight.

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