

Summary

The task of the book “Philosophical anthropology” is to introduce the reader to the contemporary philosophical anthropology – a science of man, which has its beginning in works of ancient Greek philosophers and continues through current advances in science. Philosophical anthropology is defined as an interdisciplinary field, which organises and interprets the knowledge and insights of various branches of sciences and humanities addressing the questions about human nature, its specific attributes and qualities, and problems that characterise the physical, mental and social aspects of human existence. This collection gives an overview of what are the basic concepts and most common terms of philosophical anthropology, what methods are applied to explore the issues.

This is a first collection of original articles focusing particularly on philosophical anthropology that is being published in Latvian. At the same time, the current book is thematically linked to the previous publications in history of culture and philosophy, as well as translations of most significant thinkers, where the history of human self-inquiry and various anthropological theories are discussed.

Authors of the collection are the faculty of Rīga Stradiņš University Department of Humanities and doctoral students. Collection consists of an introduction and ten chapters devoted to such human existence in the context of the problematic issues, such as courage, emotions, consciousness, creativity, values, freedom, identity, love, happiness, and death. Structurally each chapter contains the semantic interpretations and definitions of the central concepts. It is followed by a historical overview of the ideas of most prominent thinkers in order to relate the anthropological issues to the history of ideas. Significant attention is also paid to the contemporary interpretation of the topic.

The collection is orientated towards the widest possible audience of the readers who are interested in the central issues and terminology of philosophical anthropology, from those who are interested in transdisciplinary approach to humanities to the attendants of the university courses.