

Jaime Nubiola: *Acceptance of the Herbert W. Schneider Award (2025)*

"Gratitude is the only secret that cannot reveal itself." With these words from Emily Dickinson to her mentor, I wish to express the deep gratitude with which I receive this honor.

When I first began studying Peirce in the early 90's I was immediately struck by a peculiar affinity between the founder of pragmatism and some of the most cherished Hispanic philosophers. If my memory does not fail, I believe Goyo Pappas was the first philosopher I met who shared this conviction. In fact, it was Goyo who arranged for a symposium on "American Philosophy and the Hispanic World" at the SAAP meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 1997. Alongside Douglas Browning and Herman Saatkamp we explored the often-overlooked intersections between American pragmatism and Hispanic philosophy. We were fortunate to have Peter H. Hare, editor of the *Transactions*, in attendance, and at the end of our session, he invited us to prepare a set with the four papers on the topic for the journal.

The following year, in August of 1998 I had the opportunity to attend the Twentieth World Congress of Philosophy held in Boston with the general title «Philosophy Educating Humanity». There, I presented a paper in the section "American Philosophy" with the title "A Plea for a Peircean Turn in Analytic Philosophy" advocating for a pragmatist renewal of analytic philosophy.

In my view, the pragmatist transformation of analytic philosophy is related to that Kantian idea of the philosopher as a certain ideal of a teacher, who seeks to promote the essential ends of humanity. That ideal leads to conceiving philosophy as a way of life rather than as a technical discipline and is related to the idea of the responsibility of philosophy and of the philosopher in his or her professional activity.

It is not an overstatement to affirm that reason is at risk today. Reasonableness is not the defining traits of our politicians or business leaders all over the world, and it often seems absent even in the practice of our scientific colleagues. As philosophers, who—in Husserl's expression—feel us to be "civil servants of humankind," have a serious responsibility about our fellow citizens, like Socrates with Athens. With our work we are not only transmitting philosophical knowledge to new generations, we are keeping alive the flame of rigorous thinking in freedom, the flame of being in plenitude human beings.

Last year, upon receiving this award, Vincent Colapietro urged us "*to be* the contemporary equivalent of the figures to whom one is most strongly drawn, not simply to embroider their texts with your [our] marginalia" (p. 137). Philosophy is not—and cannot be—merely an academic exercise; it is an instrument for the progressive, critical, and rational reconstruction of everyday life. In a world where daily life is often disconnected from an intelligent examination of oneself and of the fruits of human activity, a philosophy that separates itself from genuine human concerns, would be a luxury we cannot afford.

This is what I have strived to do throughout my career, and for that reason, receiving the Herbert W. Schneider Award today is a profound honor. Thanks a lot!
Muchas gracias!