

PREFACE

The papers included in this issue were initially presented at the international conference “The Legacy of Hannah Arendt in the Early 21st Century” hosted by the Chair of Philosophy at the European Humanities University, Belarus/Lithuania and the Chair of Philosophy at the Vilnius University, May 18–19, 2007 in Vilnius.

The conference was dedicated to the centenary of Hannah Arendt, whose philosophy belongs to the most significant and influential accomplishments in the political thought of the 20th century. Hannah Arendt was indubitably the pioneering thinker and the discerning diagnostician of the epoch; her analysis of the origins of totalitarianism, the emphasis on the constitutive role of the political in human life, the reflections on the human condition in general, – all this retains its actuality for us, as much as we face the new developments in our social world and seek to comprehend their inner uncertainties and threats.

The conference was aimed at, first, exploring the theoretical legacy of Hannah Arendt from diverse analytical and disciplinary angles and, second, discussing the possibilities and forms of its application to the complex and ambiguous realities in the early 21st century.