

EDITORIAL

SPECIAL EDITION ON INDEXICALISM

Hilan Bensusan & Arran Gare

The papers in this volume of *Cosmos & History* are the proceedings of a book symposium held in late September and early October, 2021, devoted to examining the recent book of the Brazilian philosopher, Hilan Bensusan: *Indexicalism: Realism and the Metaphysics of Paradox* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2021). Different aspects of the work were discussed with people who had sent their essays in advance so that all participants were able to read them before the event. The twelve essays that follow are part of the eighteen essays discussed at the symposium.

Positions, places, perspectives and situations are part of what there is. According to indexicalism, they cannot be dismissed and, as a consequence, the furniture of the universe is such that it cannot afford a view from nowhere. Rather, things are more like demonstratives than like substantives. These situated bubbles, nonetheless, include not only “me”, “us”, “here”, “now” but also “the other”, “them”, “exterior”, “outside” and “the (Great) Outdoors”. It follows that the others are thought through as others and exteriority is thoroughly preserved instead of being integrated into an encompassing picture. The resulting metaphysics of the others is paradoxical: it is simultaneously a metaphysics and a viewpoint from which metaphysics is criticized.

Indexicalism brings together the idea of a transcending outdoors with developments in process philosophy, work on indexicals and Amerindian perspectivism, among other ideas, to develop an image of the world according to which the others as others and their proximity are central. The essays collected here discuss some of the implications and consequences of what is proposed in

the book. Bensusan acknowledges his gratitude to *Cosmos & History* and to Arran Gare for the interest and efforts to publish these proceedings.

Since this entire edition is devoted to the proceedings of this symposium on indexicalism, other papers submitted and accepted for publication in *Cosmos & History* will be published in a separate edition to follow shortly, along with papers currently under review.

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