

Philosophical walk through the Colosseum: The show and the 'behind the scenes'

Proposal

This philosophical walk aims to bring a 'reflection in motion' about two fundamental themes of our time and the ancient world: the meaning of the spectacle and the background that supports it. The Colosseum in many of its periods was the most important 'stage performance' of the Roman Empire, causing the death of hundreds of people and thousands of animals and an exercise and exhibition of power, gathering the masses around meanings and symbolism that became common. What meaning do these symbolisms have? What importance, value or relationship does what happens in the background of that spectacle and the people who build it have in the direction that social courses take? Finally, what relationship exists between the dynamics of the Colosseum and the reality of our times? As we approach these ancient structures we will see the philosophy that exists behind them.

Background

The most cited antecedent of philosophical walks dates back to the peripatetic tradition in the world of Ancient Greece, where both Aristotle and his disciples took walks because they considered that walking had an intimate relationship with thinking about the issues of our reality. In the contemporary world, an important antecedent has been Dr. Leon de Haas from Holland (organizer of the 10th ICPP in Leusden), who carried out a large number of philosophical walks for audiences in Holland and in different countries.

What are philosophical walks?

The philosophical walk is a type of philosophical practice that is both old and new. It has to do with the reflective and philosophical possibilities that walking enables, as well as the possibility of contacting our environments to deepen our thinking and ideas through philosophical questions that are asked during the walk or at specific stops. Sometimes they can be developed with specific themes and other times openly depending on the interests and concerns of the participants.

Why the Colosseum

The Colosseum is currently considered almost the symbol of Rome, both for its antiquity (almost 2,000 years) and for its significance (the large number of political figures and people that passed through it, in addition to its meaning for society in the different periods of the Roman Empire and even today). Its beauty and greatness have made it one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World and a wonderful excuse to promote reflection and philosophical thought.

Methodology

The philosophical walks operates through different instances. The first of them has to do with the formulation of certain key questions that are provided to the attendees. After providing some nodal information about this monument, people will walk along certain 'select' routes, also making some fundamental stops where small dialogues will take place. The walk is structured to bring us closer to some of the key places of the Colosseum that will be 'tasted' with the thoughts of the attendees while they draw relationships with themselves and with our epoch. At the end, the people will arrive at a quiet place where participants settle and will share their impressions about the experience.

Days and times

Activity date: **Wednesday, August 7**

Time: **7:30 pm**

Starting point: **At the water kiosk to the right of the Colosseum metro exit**

About the speaker

David Sumiacher D'Angelo is General Director, Co-founder and Professor at CECAPFI, President of CECAPFI International, Director of the Master's Degree in Philosophical Practices and co-founder and first President of the Mexican Association of Philosophical Counseling. He has worked on projects with universities in more than twenty countries and has authored more than one hundred publications in relation to philosophy, philosophical practice and counseling, philosophy with/for children, epistemology and philosophy, and post-pandemic. He currently President of the thematic section on philosophical counseling practices of the World Congress of Philosophy.