

**‘First they take Manhattan, then they take Berlin’: cancel culture in philosophy and science** *by Dr. Boris Kožnjak*

The phenomena of cancel culture is the most engaging sequel to political correctness, having the main intent of defaming and dethroning. It affects persons, events and even non-inanimate objects like statues. It has slowly come up to philosophers and working sciences.

When Croatia was part of communist Yugoslavia, many people were “cancelled”—sometimes, with their life—for criticizing their regime. A first example was Boris’ own grandfather (jailed for 6 months).

Pavao Vuk Pavlovic’s seminars on neo-Platonism were overturned by supporters of the regime because he didn’t speak on Marx.

Marijan Cipra’s career ended by him being discredited because he wrote a footnote in his “Metamorphosis in metaphysics” which mentions a student of Schelling’s on something interpreted wrongly as anti-state.

Some more anecdotes about people being “cancelled” for going against dialectical materialism.

A current example: Colin Wright. “Cancelled” as a transphobic bigot.

Two possible views:

1. Cancel culture is a real ideological threat to intellectual freedom, etc.
2. Cancel culture is a legitimate and desirable form of criticism, and attacks on it are the real threat

## Criticism vs. Cancelling (Rauch 2020)

	CRITICISM	CANCELLING
<b>PUNITIVENESS</b>	seeks to correct rather than punish	seeks to punish rather than correct
<b>DEPLATFORMING</b>	tolerates dissents rather than silencing them	seeks to shut up and shout down its targets
<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	relies on persuasion and arguments to convince	relies on public humiliation and shaming
<b>SECONDARY BOYCOTTS</b>	no value in instilling a climate of fear	instilling a climate of fear
<b>MORAL GRANDSTANDING</b>	discourages extreme rhetoric	display of moral outrage to impress one’s peer group, dominate others, or both
<b>TRUTHINESS</b>	addresses what one actually said	truthiness sacrificed to the cause

Micah asks: What about situations in which rational discourse isn't possible? For example, slave-owners denied the humanity of the slaves.