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In common language, the term "philosophy" is often used as a synonym of "worldview": a general view of the world, which does not have to be – and often simply is not – rationally justified. Philosophy as an academic discipline is, on the other hand, often considered the domain of never-ending, often unresolvable, controversies; it is thought to be a field of useless debates about problems which may never be treated seriously.

None of these visions of philosophy are accepted by us: philosophy is neither a set of unjustified convictions nor a domain of never-ending controversies.

We are convinced that if philosophy is to preserve a status of a scientific discipline and in order to enable its real progress, there is a need of constant improvements of methodological tools used in it. The need of critical reflection over science-creating procedures is necessary as well: both philosophy and the so-called particular disciplines undergo permanent evolution. Within the project, we will examine some contemporary philosophical works and focus on the methods applied in them. In particular, we will examine the ways of defining terms, types of reasonings, kinds of proposed hypotheses and accepted (implicitly or explicitly) assumptions. We will also analyse the language of contemporary philosophy with respect to its correctness and its cognitive functions.

An important reference of our research is methodological tradition of the Lvov-Warsaw School. This school, created at the turn of the 20th century by Kazimierz Twardowski, is the biggest and the most significant – so far – Polish philosophical school. Its members not only applied in their works high methodological standards but also provided analyses of many methodological problems, which contributed to the theories of definitions, reasoning, classifications, semiotic defects etc. We are convinced that the paradigm of LWS and its ideals have universal value and that this potential has not been exploited to the full. In our opinion, it may perfectly be used as a convenient tool for methodological analysis of contemporary philosophy.

The project aims to significantly expand knowledge about: (a) research methods used in contemporary philosophy; (b) philosophers' methodological self-awareness; (c) peculiarities of philosophy from the methodological point of view; (d) methods of improving methodological tools used in philosophy; (e) the history of Polish methodological thought.