Jakub Jernajczyk

The circle – mathematical inspirations in philosophy and art.

The presentation will concern the visual, mathematical and symbolic features of the circle – a figure which has played a particular role in the history of science, culture and art. We will take a closer look at the ancient methods of establishing a circle's area, which have displayed the irrationality and infinity it incorporates. We will look at the philosophical symbol of the perfect figure, which can be found in the thought of Parmenides, Plato, Nicolas of Cusa, Pascal and Quine, amongst others. We will pay particular attention to the circle as a metaphor for the development of human knowledge. The classic shape of this metaphor will be visualized along with its new, original version, presenting an idealistic model of knowledge.

Keywords: circle of knowledge, portrait of pi, visual thinking, irrationality