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Preface

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Preface

This Festschrift celebrates Olli Lagerspetz's 60th birthday on February 23, 2023. Like Olli's own multifaceted scholarly work, the Festschrift avoids homogeneity and embraces thematic plurality.¹ The authors were allowed freely to choose topics that connect either closely or loosely with Olli's work. As a result, the volume contains essays that reflect Olli's broad interest in philosophy and the history of ideas: from religion and dirt to ethics and the philosophy and history of the human sciences. As Olli has argued (2020), it is profitable to read Wittgenstein's concept of 'form of life' as denoting activities and practices – that which is irreducible within a form of inquiry – and not as referring to monolithic social or cultural formations. Consequently, philosophy *is* a form of life – a kind of inquiry that, since it does not have a definite subject matter, can be applied to anything we find important in life. This pluralistic feature of philosophy is laudably exemplified in Olli's work.

Olli's wide-ranging scholarly work has often been written in close dialogue with the philosophical community at Åbo. For about four decades, Olli is – through active participation and presence – an essential ingredient for the upkeep and flourishing of Åbo's philosophical community. It is sometimes said that philosophy itself does not progress. Be that as it may: we are convinced that Olli's clarity of thought and penetrating questions has offered, and continues to offer, an immense improvement of philosophy at Åbo. We are lucky to have him, and the opportunity to discuss philosophy on a day-to-day basis with Olli is a great joy and resource for friends, colleagues and students at Åbo. Therefore, this volume celebrates not only Olli's internationally recognised scholarly writings, but

¹ Unlike the tradition of Festschriften, this volume does not include a Tabula Gratulatoria since the production costs have been covered by a grant from Åbo Akademi University.

also his inspiring work as a teacher and supervisor at the department of philosophy at Åbo Akademi University.

References

Lagerspetz, Olli. 2020. "Wittgenstein's Forms of Life: A Tool of Perspicuous Representation." *Nordic Wittgenstein Review* 9: 107–130.