

P4k „Philosophy for kids“ nach Plato´s Meno(n) – in the neighborhood of PhiloDrama.

A folding paper demonstration **MORE GEOMETRICO** dedicated to David Sumiacher

Mike Roth icpp2023 7.6. at 10 – 13.30 French Institute Timisoara

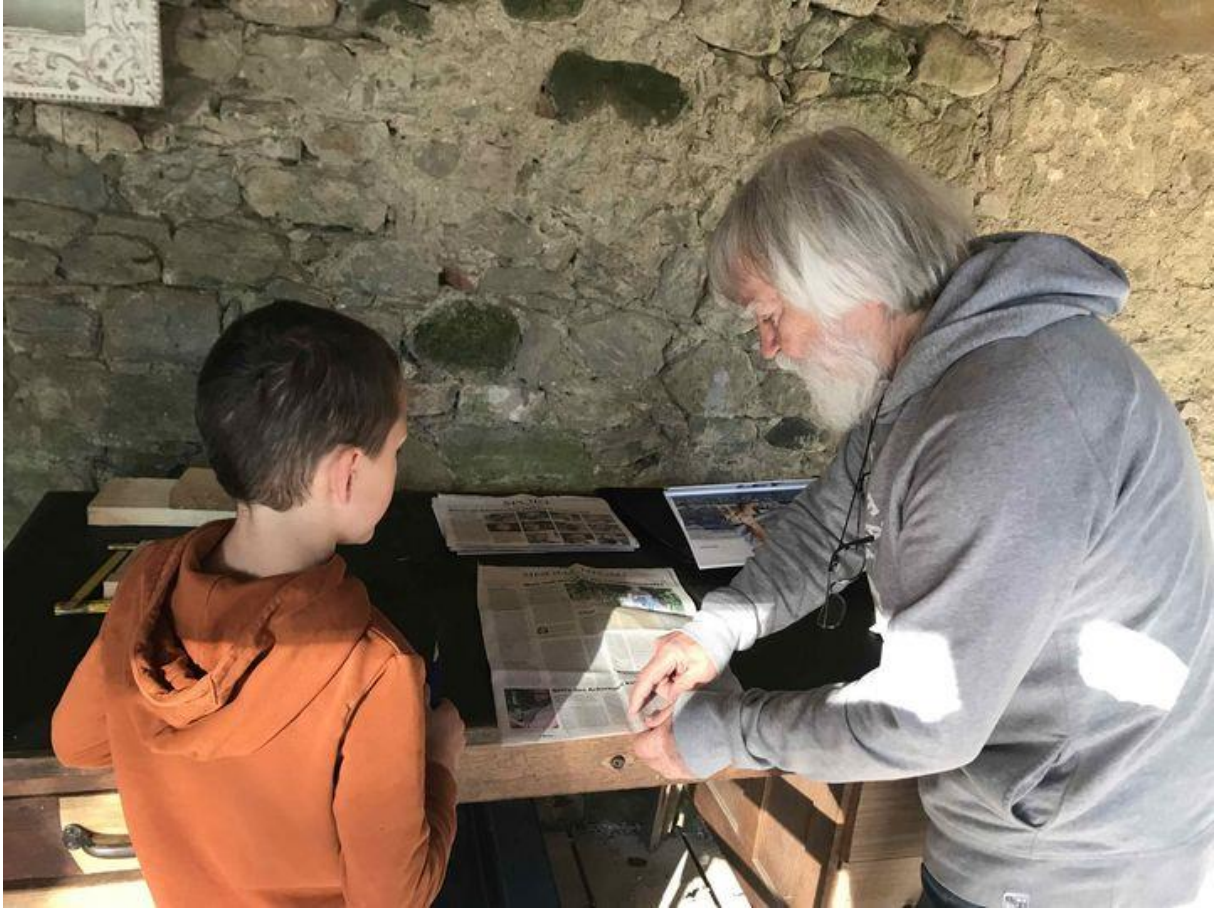


Uphill at the LAKE OF KONSTANZ in the summertime

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Early on a Saturday morning I am finding the garden-door open. The sun is up and so is Pius.

I had asked his mother for permission to do some /"little p" (Dr. J – for Jackson- in "p4c" => philosophy for kids, so I'll speak of p4k / and regard it as an activity with closeness to David Sumiacher's practice of philosophizing incorporating corporal action. I am inspired by Plato's Meno(n) in co-operating with Pius, who entered school last summer. Theresia made this photograph of a "Socratic moment".



Here we are



P: What are we going to do?

M: Do you know shapes? Do you know sizes? I have brought a meter measure.

P: I know squares - even sym-me-trical ones.

M: Show me. There are some pieces of wood here.

And here is the meter measure.

//P folds the beginning of the meter measure into a triangle.

M: Is that a square?

P: (joyfully) Yes -

M: Count the corners -

P: 1-2-3

M: Triangle? And quadrangle -

//P does it, bends one more link from the meter and bends right angles.

P: Quadrangle



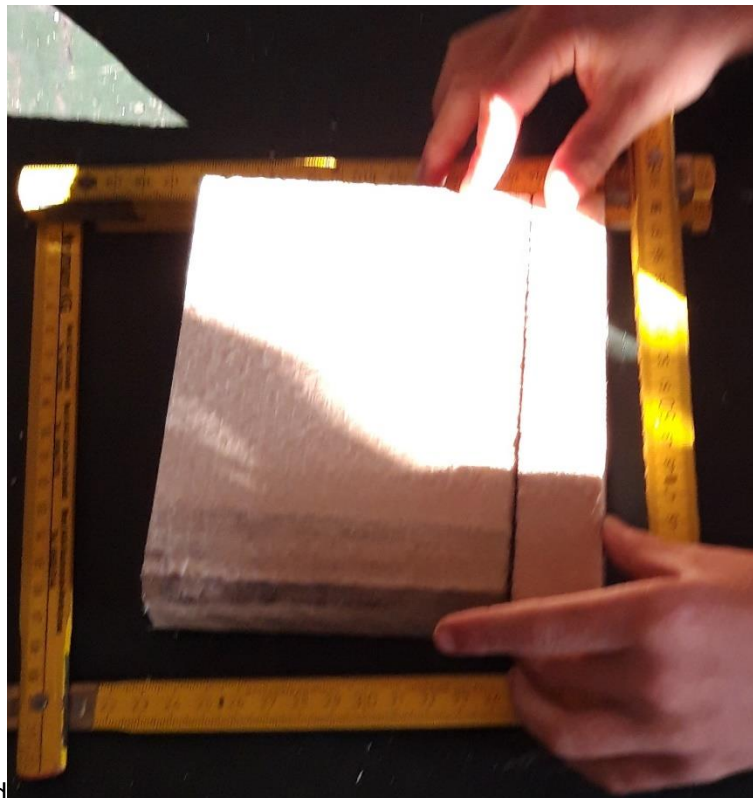
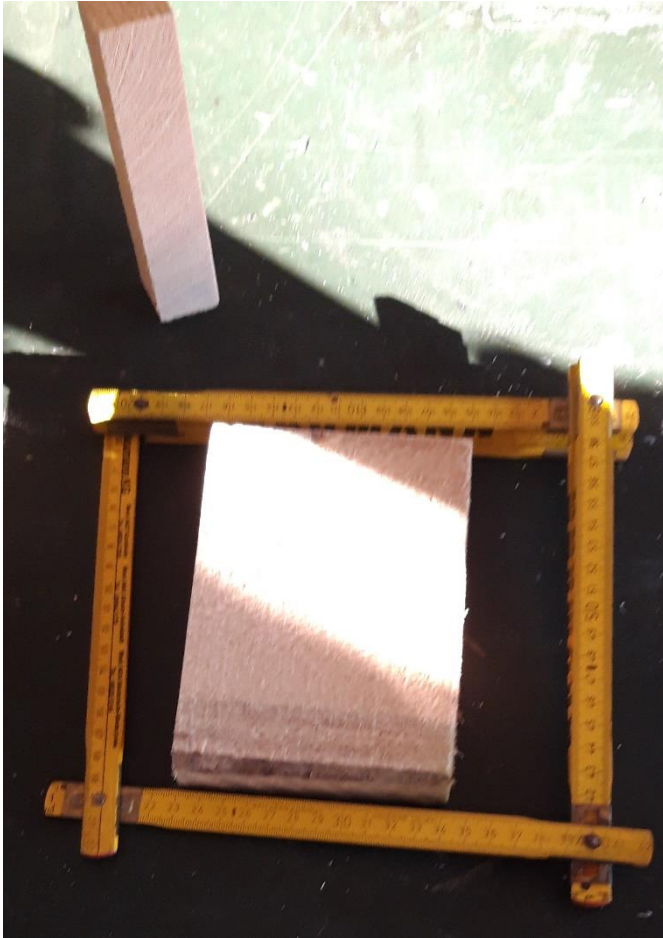
// P builds this spontaneously

M: Great! -Which are the symmetrical ones?

//P points to the top two

M: So you know shapes (triangle, quadrangle, square). You made the square out of the folding rule.

//M puts a piece of wood in it. There is still missing a bit in the wood, until it becomes a square.



//P adds the standing piece of wood

P: this is more like a square



M: And now we work with paper!
(Yesterday's newspaper was accompanied by an advertisement made of somewhat stronger paper.)

//I started (reconstructing MENO(N) in a modern version) with a central longitudinal fold. //



The insert had three layers. Did we need only 2?



When folding, the top and bottom edges should match as closely as possible. The upper pages were printed in color. The back pages in shades of gray. The third page helped to determine the distance of the cross fold for the first two pages. To do this, I cut off the folded third page and asked Pius, the "boy", to try out whether he could insert it into the longitudinal fold of the nested first two pages in such a way that a measure for the position of the cross fold was given. He had already quickly tried it out "by feel" before.

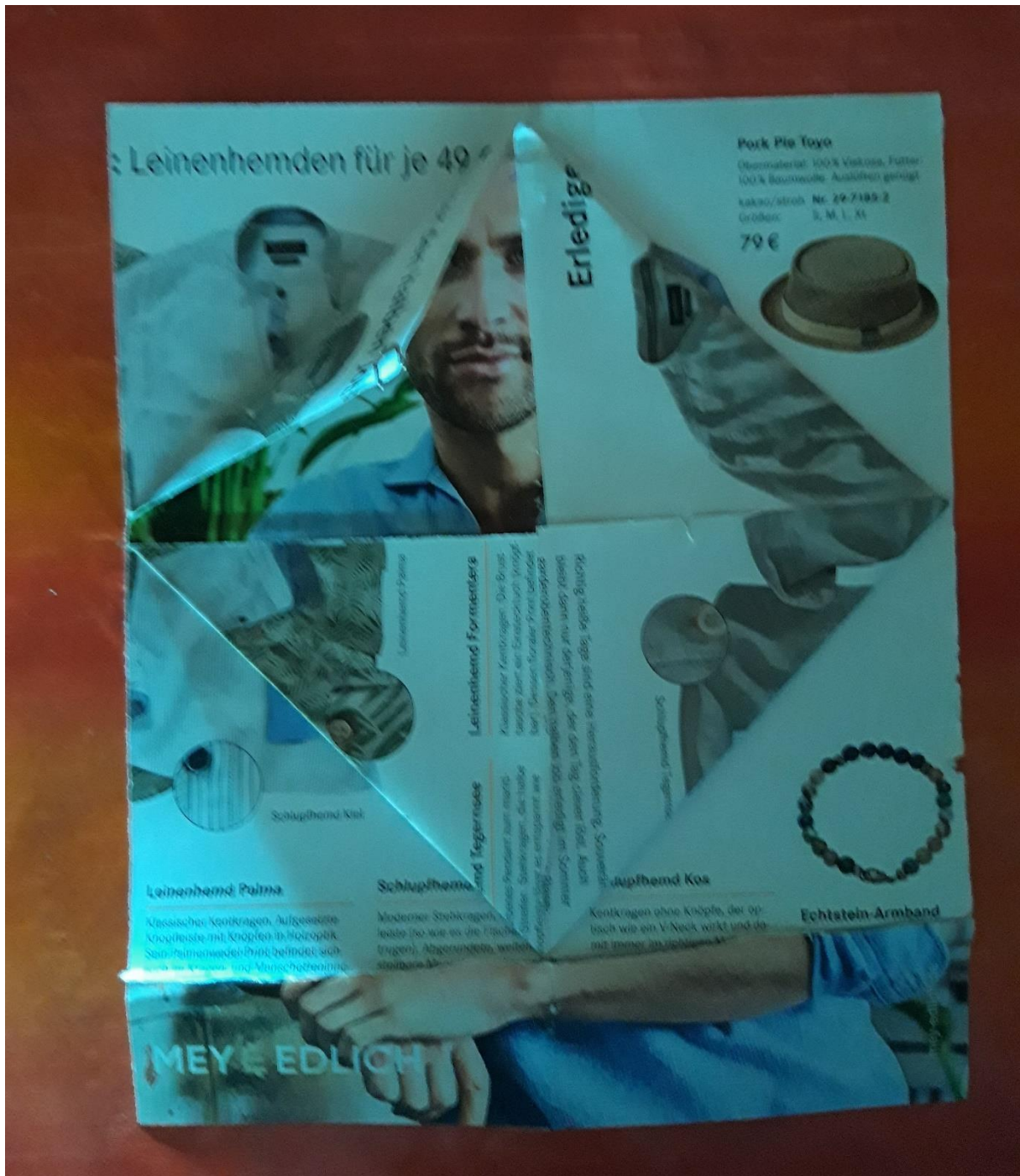


After a first cutting, the loose 3 corners are folded in and form the middle. Bottom side is more grey. The square we started with is fully visible in top position, showing green plants and a man's beady face. 3 folded triangles indicate the solution. In MENO(N) Socrates gives a "boy" the task to make a second square with double area. The area of the first square is now to be seen as consisting of 2 triangles. One of these is the fourth triangle of the solution.



Pius folds the last corner of the two-ply paper. Mission completed!

I did a second cut with my pocket knife and we ended up with the following.



Just in time. Theresia came, for now it was time for breakfast.



As a reward for his cooperation, Pius received 4 apricots. We had *philosophized together before* he had eaten anything. When I came, he was riding his bike already. Now Pius says, "I'm starving." Using a "saw" kitchen knife, he carefully cuts the flesh of an apricot into 4 pieces. His little sister opens her mouth.



Theresa had also offered squares of freshly made toast spread with raspberry jam. Pius had eaten his slice in no time at all.

Now he looked at my slice of toasted bread. I offered him another quarter of it. He took it quickly and I ate it with obvious pleasure. Then there were 2 quarters left. Both of them I cut from corner to

corner in triangles.



How does one put the (right-angled) triangles together in such a way that (again) a square is formed?
We did that together and Pius didn't wait long and ate 3 quickly. One was given to the younger sister.

For comparison

At a meeting with my partner in "SinnPraxis" Christine & her husband, as well as daughter K. and her "+1", I told them about the *philosophy 4 kids* with Pius on the MENO task of making a double-sized square. (Only afterwards did I realize that the tablecloth in the guest garden of the SCHIFF inn, where we had lunch, matched well)



~ "Starting from (AB) to the square, make a square twice as big!"

I have (only) drawn the line to the (third) corner (C) of the starting square -diagonally opposite A.

When I asked K., with a Master degree in Media Science, whether she could solve the task, she said with a laugh: "That's probably more of a task for him". But computer scientist M also found it difficult. Finally, after a while, he said, "*root of 2*".

How vivid is the Platonic-Socratic MORE GEOMETRICO - when the solution idea hits the eye & brain as you **see** the solution! And in the folding paper way you combine cognition with corporal action.

**The body is the base of all philosophy we could make,
also of the logos!**

David Sumiacher D'Angelo