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EDITOR'S NOTE ON FEMINIST EPISTEMOLOGY

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FEMINIST EPISTEMOLOGY DOSSIER**

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It is really a great pleasure that we offer another dossierr, this time with the theme of *feminist epistemology*.

As modern science began to be built on bases of specific, situational experiences, philosophy cannot avoid broadening its perspectives in this sense. It is not only a question

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of the reception of the reign of *doxa* instead of that of *episteme*, but of bringing to the epistemological field itself a greater cognitive breadth that analyzes the sensitive, corporal dimension, and, therefore, new certainties and evidence. In this proposal, too, everything is questioned that revolves around the construction of a rational, universal subject capable of objective knowledge, which now sees itself face to face with a new cultural space – that is, a space of reception in the private sphere, full of paradoxical relations, without veins of neutrality and therefore receptive to the voices of a heterogeneous feminine that resonates throughout culture.

The new theoretical and empirical resources that take into consideration feminine experiences and not exclusively masculine, taken as universal, sharpen the issue, proposed by Sandra Harding, of how the perspective of dominant groups and the hegemony of their points of view are being challenged. But it also leads us to problematize our own discursive abilities for us to think of ourselves as subjects of knowledge, connecting our perception of gender to our sexual condition, relating the historical experiences to the ethical reflections and relations.

In this sense of a new epistemic range, the various articles, translations, interviews, and reviews that compose this volume emphasize this thematic issue. As usual, we have included two interviews, which, this time, however, vary diachronically. The interview with Prof. Márcia Tiburi points up the presence of feminist philosophy in the present world, both in the academy and in the media. The interview of Prof. Yolanda A. Patterson with the philosopher **Simone de Beauvoir** demonstrates how time allows us to read the reflections on life in a differentiated way.

To translate and publish this final interview was possible thanks to the authorization granted by Mme Sylvie Le Bon de Beauvoir, by the interviewer, Prof. Patterson, and by the AATF Publisher of the *French Review*, in the person of its Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Edward Ousselin, who kindly gave us permission to that end. The interview was originally published in French by *French Review*, vol. 52, no.5 (April 1979), pp. 745-754, under the sponsorship of the *American Association of Teachers of French*, and now is a part, in Portuguese translation, of the present volume of *Sapere Aude*, providing new life to the data of feminine experience as an epistemological topic. In accordance with this line of thinking, Yolanda A. Patterson, at the end of the 1970s, was a professor of French language and

literature who crossed the Atlantic with her tape-recorder from the US to Paris, to Simone de Beauvoir's apartment, on *Rue Schoelcher*. Beauvoir not only graciously received her but gave a dialogical dimension to the interview, answering questions about her daily life and her books, especially the fiction. Beauvoir also wanted to know a little more about life and events in the USA, as she had spent a few months of her life there, which she records in *L'Amérique au jour le jour*. Her whole relation with life in America, from her first visit in January 1947, through her real and imaginary journeys via letters to the writer Nelson Algren, and finally through the intense exchange of ideas with American feminists at the end of the 1960s and during the 1970s, the publication of which resulted in various works, especially *Tout compte fait* (1972), resonates with her as something that needs to be reviewed, even in the respectful silence of a conversation that problematizes fiction rather than reality. The motives for which a young American would be curious about her work overseas seemed especially interesting to Beauvoir, as Prof. Patterson kindly related to us in one of her e-mails.

In fact, Beauvoir apparently did not at the time imagine the reception her writings would have by the North-American feminists. From then on, this would bring an epistemological turn crucial to her work, and become a vehicle of dialogue between the feminism of the second and third wave, respectively. In this sense, for allowing us to translate and publish something so valuable, we are grateful to Prof. Yolanda A. Patterson and Madame Sylvie Le Bon de Beauvoir, who also generously sent us a review to compose the corresponding section, which pays homage to Simone de Beauvoir. Our thanks also to Prof. Eliana de Moura Castro, for her valuable help with the translation to Portuguese of the interview originally granted in French.

The articles that make up this volume of *Sapere Aude* all aim at helping us to rethink academic feminist theories, especially within the philosophical field, through new discussions of method, production of knowledge, diverse epistemological models, and new theories of daily knowledge. In designating the process of acquiring knowledge, names and articles strengthen this dossier with bases for new epistemological approaches. Here are texts by scholars such as Abellon (CONICET-Argentina,) Bach (UBA-Argentina), Balbuena ((FAHCE-UNLP, Argentina), Casale (UNLP-Argentina), Daigle (BROCK, Canada), Farias Augusto (UFF, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), Fontes (UNICAMP. SP, Brazil),

Kuhnen (UFSC, Brazil), Lerussi (UNC.Córdoba, Argentina), Levéel (África do Sul), Lòpez Pardina (COMPLUTENSE. Madrid, España), Marques (UFMG, Brazil), Martinez Prado (UNC. Córdoba, Argentina), Moraes Augusto (UFRJ, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), Oliva (USJT-SP, Brazil), Patterson (HAYWARD- California, USA), Prosperi (UNLP. Argentina), Ribeiro (UFSP-Brazil), Rodier (ALBERTA, Canada), Santos (PUCMINAS, Brazil), Silva (UNIVERSIDADE de COIMBRA, Portugal), Tiburi (MACKENZIE-SP, Brazil).

To them all we give thanks for these new interpretive possibilities, for the critiques of theoretical productions of knowledge unconnected to their value foundations, and, mainly, for establishing interrelations between experiences and learning emerging from new subjects of knowledge.

We thank specially the various scholars Sylvie Le Bon de Beauvoir (Paris), Christine Daigle (Brock University, Canada), Erika Ruonakoski (University of Helsinki, Finland), Yasminn Barbosa (FMD-PUCMINAS), Bárbara Bastos S. Nascimento (FMD-PUCMINAS), Isabel Bordini (UFPR), Bernardo Brandão (UFPR), Thiago Teixeira Santos (FAJE), Sérgio M. Rodrigues (PUCMINAS, Brazil), who make up this special group dedicated to recount the *Cahier de L'Herne* of 2012. This volume pays homage to Simone de Beauvoir, with unpublished philosophical material, as well various articles on her work, a copy of which was kindly given to us by Madame Sylvie Le Bon de Beauvoir in the beginning of 2013.

In the section of translations, we have the article of Prof. Christine Daigle, of Brock University, Canada, with the original title *Thinking with Simone de Beauvoir... and beyond*, dedicated to question of the relation between ethics and discursive methods of argument. Daigle, as a philosopher and scholar of Nietzsche, Sartre, and Beauvoir, discusses the ethical and ontological aspects of Beauvoir's work, relating literature and philosophy, methodology and epistemology.

Our sincerest thanks to our friends and translators, Paulo Sartori, Fernando L. Brandão and Prof. Tom Burns, for their help with the English texts, and Prof. Eliana de Moura Castro, with her equally constant help with the French. Thanks to the careful work of all of them, we have been able to maintain the section of the translation of philosophical texts in *Sapere Aude*.

We were grateful as well to all the colleagues from the Department of Philosophy: Prof. Antônio Aurélio O. Costa, Prof. Sílvia M. de Contaldo, Prof. Valéria De Marco, Prof. João Nogueira and especially Prof. Sérgio Murilo Rodrigues, for their ongoing solidarity and patience in the edition of this dossier. A special thanks to Prof. Jacyntho Lins Brandão (UFMG), for the valuable critical work on this dossier.

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