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## Editorial

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PAUL RICOEUR DOSSIER (1913-2005)



A dossier on Paul Ricoeur is not at all easy but bears along with it the symbology of conflict and its interpretive bases. This particular dossier offers to the reader of *Sapere Aude, Brazil*, several interpretive perspectives on the “philosophical intentions” of Ricoeur, in homage to the 100 years of his birth.

Philosophical intentions is a term we have borrowed from the article of Prof. Theresa Calvet, which sharpens the critical and interpretative sense of Ricoeur’s readers. As she reminds us, it is at the intersection of the notions of selfness and sameness that new concepts become evident, such as that of responsibility, and a new dialectical projection (of

selfness and sameness) ends up by demonstrating the uniqueness of the encounter between personal identity and narrative identity, with an impact on ethical action. This impact investigates the sense of justice as a constant theme on which contemporaneity is debated, both in the theoretical sphere and in that of practical, juridical, and political practices.

What the several authors who here discuss Paul Ricoeur's thought have us perceive, besides the complexity and profundity of the philosopher's investigations, is the need to de-center reflection, demand of it new forms of thinking about meaning that surpasses the *reasons of reason*, that recognizes the real dimension of its limits. The return to concrete experiences, the theories of the body, the specific and distinct hermeneutic project of Heidegger and Gadamer, as well as establishing the paradox of culpability, suggest mediations of the ways and the comprehension of new methodological proposals that involve mediations of language and its elucidation. This would indeed be the great legacy of Ricoeur to his readers, which is the proposal of a critical detour by way of the semantics of discourse, taking the hermeneutics as a continued exercise in the very relational objectivity of language. Language is the true leading direction of a type of thought that explores the semantic dimension of all hermeneutics and attempts to steer between epistemology and ontology.

The present volume thus counts on the notion of conflict as something of prime importance to understand the hermeneutic ontology of Paul Ricoeur, and nothing in an absolute way is proposed here, but the proposals are always on the margins of enlarging symbologies. We are therefore much honored to present this dossier, which includes as well a text of the philosopher himself, one that is little known and unpublished in Portuguese and that initiates the collection of articles.

It is a translation of a cycle of lectures given in 1973 and 1974, at the Center of Phenomenological Research of Paris, transcribed in Italian under the trusteeship of Rita Messori.<sup>1</sup> Two scholars from the Federal University of Santa Maria (RS), the master's candidate Vinícius Sanfelice and his advisor Prof. Marcelo Fabri offer us a meticulous translation of Ricoeur's text. Our sincerest thanks to the Italian trustees, Rita Messori and Luigi Russo, of the *Centro Internazionale di Studi di Estetica da Università degli studi di*

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<sup>1</sup> RICOEUR, Paul. **Cinque lezioni. Dal linguaggio all'immagine**, curato da Rita Messori. Nr. 66, "Aesthetica Preprint". Centro Internazionale Studi di Estetica. Università degli Studi di Palermo. Itália.

Palermo, Italy. In *Five Lessons: From Language to Image*, Ricoeur analyzes the question of a possible phenomenological unity in the concept of the image, as well as a possible dominion of the phenomenological diversity that goes beyond the history of philosophy in its confrontations of representation and concept. It is a question of an investigation on the logic of sense, the *givenness* of the object and the critique of knowledge.

Also in the translated section, we have an article of the Norwegian Professor Anlaug Bjornes, researcher of the possibilities of dialogue between the thought of Paul Ricoeur and Simone de Beauvoir, translated by our friend, Prof. Eliana de Moura Castro, psychoanalyst and current resident of Paris. The article investigates the uses of the theory of identity in the two philosophers and correlates fictional texts of Beauvoir with philosophical essays of Ricoeur as to their concern for a philosophy of human action. In both philosophers, Bjornes identifies the theme of *selfness* associated with permeability, uncertainty, and unstable temporality, emphasizing the conflicts of human identity.

The other articles we have the great honor of offering the reader here investigate various themes, such as the intuitive metaphor and the responsibility for the other, explored by Sanfelice; the correlation between anthropology and ontology, ethics and politics, examined by De Mori, enlarging the reflection on the hermeneutics of the self and the formation of the imaginary by way cultural works; the discussion of themes such as memory, methodology, the relations between love and justice, the obliquity of subjectivity and communication, in articles by respected scholars like Botton, Brito, Cunha, Salles, Stefani, Coelho, Cardoso, Teixeira, Renaud, as well as Bjornos, Costa, and Calvet, all of which demonstrate the profundity and interpretive possibilities of Paul Ricoeur's thought.

Our thanks to the staff of the Review and all who have contributed to this volume, as authors, reviewers, revisers, referees and evaluators, supports for new ideas and dialogues. Our special thanks to Professors Silvia M. de Contaldo, Valéria De Marco, Eliana de Moura Castro, and Jacyntho Lins Brandão, all friendly to knowledge and the audacity of knowing. If the motto *sapere aude*, from Horace to Kant by way of the mathematics of Gassendi, has repercussions at the boundaries of philosophy, theology, and science as something radical, it is also the motto that invades the philosophical corpus and makes inquiries into its conditions of possibility. This continues to be our abiding motto,

one that affects the paradoxical concerns of knowledge rather than a proposal that is merely enlightening.

Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

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The Editors

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