

V.G. Lysenko

Sense Perception and Rational Knowledge: India and the West (Principles of a Comparative Study)

The paper is an attempt to individuate a system of notions that would allow for a comparative analysis of the ideas of the relation between sense perception and rational knowledge in the Eastern and Western epistemologies. The author maintains that the traditions in question are not incommensurable because they are typologically akin. Such kindred can be observed both in the structure principles (in both cases we identify the similar components of the process of cognition: subject, object, the senses, attention, etc.; cognition can be divided in sensual, rational and supra-rational or supra-rationally intuitive) and in problematizations: similar questions are discussed regarding the status of the object of knowledge, the role of ideas, constructions of thought, direct or mediated action, truth or illusion, and so on. Three main approaches to the problem of the relation of knowledge to its object are described: “direct realism”, “representationalism” and “idealism”, as well as the ways they are employed, respectively, in Western and Indian epistemology. It is demonstrated that at the heart of the Western tradition there stands the controversy between empiricists and rationalists, whereas the Indian one is centred on that between “realists” (the object as external to knowledge) and “constructivists” (the object as a construction of knowledge).

Keywords: *perception, sensation, realism, representationism, epistemological idealism, comparative epistemology, Indian epistemology, Western epistemology, empiricism, rationalism, constructivism in cognition, Locke, Berkley, Hume, Dignaga, Dharmakirti*

I.A. Beskova

The Problem of Self-Correlation of Consciousness

What is the origin of the uppermost capacity of consciousness, its capacity of self-correlation which is proper of man alone? How the higher-level consciousness comes to be and how it is related to the deeper consciousness? Why, if the capacity of deeper consciousness is inherent in him, does the man at some point find himself separated from it by the barrier of the Self and, as a result, loses his ability of a direct introspection into what is happening in others' minds as if occurring within himself?

Starting from these questions, the paper offers a new model of understanding of the nature of this self-correlative capacity of consciousness. The method primarily used is that of “flipping” the problem: one begins not by explaining how from the primitive forms of rudimentary sensitivity there emerges a higher-level consciousness which only achieves its present form through evolution, but rather by attempting to understand how, when and why the more fundamental capacity of consciousness, which comes perhaps closer to perfection than the one we know from experience as our ego-consciousness, undergoes the various changes while acquiring all the familiar appearances, from fairly sophisticated to quite primitive ones.

Keywords: *consciousness, perception, mind, self-correlation, non-duality, deeper consciousness, attention, paradox, duality, dissociation*

V.P. Vizgin

Alexandre Mikhailov: an Attempt of a Philosophical Identification

The paper offers a reconstruction of philosophical views of the outstanding germanist A.V. Mikhailov (1938-1995). Drawing both from his personal experience of conversations he used to entertain with the late scholar and from a study of the latter's enormous written legacy which came to public knowledge only in recent time, the author seeks to demonstrate the originality of Mikhailov's thought, of his literary and philosophic style. In its main traits, Mikhailov's outlook appears as a logocentric synthesis of an "off the beaten track" philosophy close to the later Heidegger, and an hermeneutic programme of "historicising of knowledge" which continues, with a characteristically philological tint, the tradition of Dilthey and Gadamer.

Keywords: *Mikhailov, Heidegger, Dilthey, off the beaten track, self-knowledge, Logos, history, philology, philosophy, historicizing of knowledge, logocentric structures, romanticism*

V.K. Kantor

Crossroads of Emigrant Fortunes (Letters by Fedor Stepun to Boris Vysheslavtsev, Stepun's Discourse on Bolshevism Appended)

The two outstanding Russian thinkers of the 20th century, Fedor Avgustovich Stepun (Friedrich Steppuhn) and Boris Petrovich Vysheslavtsev, shared not only many of their philosophic ideas, but the vicissitudes of fate as well. Both completed their studies of philosophy in Germany, both emerged as important figures in the Russian pre-revolutionary thought and both were expelled from the country on board the ill-famous "philosophers' steamboat" in 1922. Once abroad, their lives took different courses, but they never lost view one of another. Either one in a different manner, they both pointed out that 20th century is the time of the triumph of irrationalism which totally overwhelmed and suppressed what had been remaining of the rationalist and positivist 19th century. According to them, it was the irrationalism which became the major cause of all the tragedies they witnessed. The author also publishes Stepun's letters to Vysheslavtsev illustrating their intellectual affinity and mutual interest. In Appendix the reader will find published an hitherto little known text by Stepun on bolshevism.

Keywords: *Stepun (Steppuhn), Vysheslavtsev, Spengler, Lenin, Russian philosophy, exile, philosophers' steamboat, emigration, bolshevism, Nazism, the Russian chaos, the West, Russia*

D.A. Skopin

"The Giant Mole", or the Logic of a Deadlock in Communication

The paper explores the problem of a model of governing the communication process in modern societies. The analysis is based on the material of the two cases of polemics which, as far as the opinions involved are concerned, are absolutely identical. The first controversy broke out in the Internet following the release of a film in "popular science"; the latter case is described in Franz Kafka's story "The Giant Mole". Kafka's narrative proves very suitable for exposing the matrix governing the distribution of communicative positions. The author examines and submits to critique the interpretations of the story proposed by such scholars as Max Brod, Wilhelm Emrich and Werner Kraft.

Keywords: *communication, witness, discursive kind, law*

Catherine Audard

Individuality and Solidarity: J.S. Mill and the Invention of a “New” Solidarity Liberalism

Catherine Audard’s paper proposes an analysis of the concept of individuality in the political and philosophical writings by J.S. Mill. The author demonstrates that the transition from the notion of “individual” (i.e. an abstract “atomic individual”) such as typical of classical liberalism, to the notion of a dynamic and historical “individuality” which is involved in a system of relations and itself is a product of the processes of individualization and autonomization, allowed J.S. Mill to bring about a revolution in liberal thinking. It is owing to this step that the social nature of individual became included among the key notions of liberalism where, as distinct from Marxism, it never acquired a determinist quality. Following this liberalism evolved to a new stage of its development, the social liberalism.

Keywords: individuality, solidarity, social liberalism, the social nature of an individual

S.A. Nikolsky

Globalization and the Cultural Heritage in Russia: the Classical Literature and its Interpretations

The ongoing globalization makes increasingly evident the division of the world into “donor” and “recipient” nations. To which of the two categories Russia may eventually find itself belonging, and what type of self-consciousness, respectively, may profess its people, will largely depend on the extent to which the Russians have mastered their culture, and above all their classical literature. It is equally important to make the Russian classical literature an integral part of Russia’s international cultural contacts, in particular since, in author’s opinion, it has much to offer exactly where many modern national cultures remain deficient.

Keywords: globalization, culture, philosophy, literature, Weltanschauung, meanings, values, consciousness, society, classics

O.V. Artemyeva

Shaping the Language of Modern European Ethics

The paper analyzes the process of shaping of terminology that was to become the core of modern ethical vocabulary. From an attentive study of the endeavors of early modern philosophers to find a term for designating the subject of ethics, i. e. the morals, it results that the formation of the morals vocabulary must be regarded as the very process of self-identification of moral philosophy in the course of which the moral phenomenon attained a conceptual form. Hence the importance of an enquiry into the lexicological side of this process, which seems to be an indispensable precondition of its philosophic understanding.

Keywords: morals, ethics, moral, concepts of morals, moral philosophy of the early modern period, ethical terms, the language of morals, rectitude, intellectualism, sentimentalism

S.N. Korsakov

On the Original Project of *The Encyclopaedia of Philosophy*

The paper discusses the first draft of *The Encyclopaedia of Philosophy* as it had originally been conceived at the Institute of Philosophy in 1928–1930. The project was to cover all the principal fields of philosophical knowledge. There was no chance for it to get materialized, however, following the ideological crackdown on the academic staff of the Institute in 1930–1931.

Keywords: *philosophy, encyclopedia, Institute of philosophy, Deborin*

A.V. Ivanov

Antitheoretical History of Russian Philosophy

This review is a critical assessment of the monograph by N. I. Evlampiev, *A History of Metaphysics in Russia in XIX and XX cents. Russian Philosophy in its Quest for the Absolute*. The critique is to demonstrate that the book under consideration does not match the criteria of rational analysis in the history of philosophy and offers a fairly distorted picture of the Russian metaphysics during the period in question.

Keywords: *Evlampiev, review, metaphysics, the absolute, Russian philosophy, anti-history, anti-metaphysics, the language of philosophic categories*