

GIOVANNI BONACINA

ARABIA E WAHHABITI NELLA GEOGRAFIA DI CARL RITTER

Abstract

Carl Ritter's *Erdkunde* is mainly studied today with regard to its General Introduction (1822) which contains the theoretical principles adopted by the German geographer. Little attention is given however to the effective application that the above mentioned principles should find in some specific sections of the work. The two volumes concerning the Arabian peninsula (1846-47) offer a typical example of Ritter's chiefly historical and man oriented approach to his discipline. Ancient and modern sources on Arabia and its people are thoroughly discussed by the author also in the light of his own religious and political beliefs. A special interest is devoted here to Ritter's outlook on the Wahabees, who were causing in his times a crisis of Islam, right in conjunction with the early European colonization of the Middle-East.

Keywords

Carl Ritter – Geography – Religion – Wahabees – Eastern Question

RICCARDO CAPORALI

VICO E SPINOZA MODERNI ECCENTRICI

Abstract

As long as we dwell solely on the explicit references to Spinoza in Vico's works (for example as the 'fatalist' who denied divine providence) we can not get beyond direct, and essentially banal, comparisons. Things change considerably, however, when we begin to move beyond these outer layers and seek out Spinozian traits, both in form and substance, in Vico's ideas. In the vast wealth of criticism on the relationship between these two authors, this essay proposes some specific, in-depth, philosophico-political observations; from the collective and anti-individualistic 'common nature' of rights and the 'imperium', to the links between theology and politics; from the criticism of the Cartesian metaphysical subject, to the strategic primacy of democracy in modern forms of power.

Keywords

Spinoza – Vico – Political Philosophy – Moral Philosophy – Political Theology

ANTONELLA DEL PRETE

PER UNA MAPPA DEL CARTESIANESIMO: IL SYSTÈME DE PHILOSOPHIE DI PIERRE-SYLVAIN RÉGIS

Abstract

Pierre-Sylvain Régis was considered by his contemporaries a prominent Cartesian. His *Système de philosophie* (1690) was certainly one of the most successful handbooks presenting the new philosophy. This article aims to place it in the Cartesian galaxy by studying the history of the text, analyzing the title and the chapter divisions, and comparing his structure with that of similar works. The examination of some pages dedicated to human freedom allows us to note how Régis could balance in practice some different needs:

he took sides in the Scholastic tradition and the post-cartesian debates, and he had to face a firm opposition from the Parisian Church.

Keywords

Pierre-Sylvain Régis – René Descartes – Nicolas Malebranche – Cartesianism – Ethics

DONATELLA DOLCE

DI UN POSSIBILE RAPPORTO TRA METAFORA E CATEGORIZZAZIONE. SPUNTI INTRODUTTIVI

Abstract

The article explores the cognitive significance of the sense of taste by studying the process of metaphorization as a statement of categorization. Following on from the S. Glucksberg and B. Keysar's research in which the metaphor is investigated as an assertion of inclusion in a class, examining the process that connects the metaphorical phenomena to those of categorization. Thus the metaphor is represented as a stimulus of our cognitive faculties, without reducing it to a simple substitution or comparison, rather acknowledging it as an effective cognitive, or even heuristic, tool.

Keywords

Metaphor – Categorization – Language – Thought – Sense of taste

CATHERINE DROMELET

L'HABITUDE CHEZ HUME: FONDEMENT NON RATIONNEL DE LA RÉFLEXION¹

Abstract

Custom has a peculiar status in the philosophy of David Hume. «Custom» or «habit» are two words for this concept in English, and French translations provide even more synonyms. What is *habitude*, *coutume*, *accoutumance*, according to Hume? This paper aims to assert that we must distinguish between two speech levels in the philosopher's use of the concept of habit. We will show his specific use of the terms «custom» and «habit» in his *Treatise* and in the first *Enquiry*, in order to highlight the dynamic opposition between two distinct effects of the same metaphysical principle – namely the «custom and habit», or shortly: «custom». We will see how, thanks to this dynamics, Hume's skepticism towards reason gives way to an original design of thought, which oscillates between habits that program it, and a habit that makes it evolve.

Keywords

Custom – Habit – Belief – Reason – Passion

GIORGIO FAZIO

ALLE ORIGINI DELLA CATASTROFE TEDESCA. LA NAZIONE IN RITARDO E DA HEGEL A NIETZSCHE A CONFRONTO

Abstract

The article aims to systematically compare the two works of Helmuth Plessner and Karl Löwith: *Die verspätete Nation* (1934/59) and *Von Hegel zu Nietzsche* (1941/50). This comparison sheds light on the

deepest philosophical presuppositions of the two books. The essay traces how both the authors identify the process of secularization – seen as transposition of authentically theological contents and religious expectations into the secular sphere of History – to the very intellectual origin of the German catastrophe of '33. Plessner and Löwith reconstruct the process of secularization through German culture and German philosophy – from Hegel to Heidegger – and analyze it from different perspectives. However, the usage of the same genealogical scheme implies a common anthropological critique to the European Modernity and its counterfinalities, still worthy of meditation.

Keywords

Totalitarianism – Secularization – Modernity – Philosophical Anthropology – Antisemitism

MASSIMO PERRONE

ALCUNE OSSERVAZIONI SULLE FASI REDAZIONALI DEL *COMMENTO AL I LIBRO DELLE SENTENZE* DI DURANDO DI SAN PORCIANO (1270/75-1334)*

Abstract

Joseph Kock, the foremost scholar of the works of Durand of St. Pourçain, maintains that the First Book of his Commentary on the Sentences did not undergo revision, despite alterations to the Second and Fourth Books. My research, however, demonstrates considerable modifications in the First Book. This is evident both through internal indications in the text and the presence of external testimony to these modifications; two manuscripts from the *Evidentiae contra Durandum*, attributed to Durandellus, a well known Thomist critic of Durand, add five new arguments taken from “the new work” (*in novo opere*) which are preserved in Durand’s imparted text. On the basis of this evidence this article argues that the manuscript tradition of the First Book reveals a very elaborate phase that can be considered a “second redaction”.

Keywords

Durand of St. Pourçain – Commentary on the Sentences Book I – Thomism – Durandellus – Medieval Theology

RENATO PETTOELLO

TRA SCIENZA E FILOSOFIA. ALCUNE CONSIDERAZIONI SULLO STATUTO EPISTEMOLOGICO DEL POSTULATO DI COVARIANZA GENERALE

Abstract

As with any scientific revolution, Einstein’s theory of relativity and particularly his theory of general relativity entailed a profound revision of our fundamental epistemological concepts. Eminently problematic appeared Einstein’s formulation of the principle of general covariance, whose epistemological quality was subjected to a severe judgment by the mathematician Erich Kretschmann, who called into question the physical nature of the principle. The Author singles out in Ernst Cassirer’s solution proposal the most convincing approach to the problem.

Keywords

Relativity – Covariance – Epistemology – Criticism – E. Cassirer

MARIASSUNTA PICARDI

IL 'CONSIGLIERE CELESTE' DELLA REGINA. A PROPOSITO DELL'ASTROLOGIA IN JOHN DEE

Abstract

In the early years of the scientific revolution John Dee (1527-1608), the 'heavenly adviser' of Queen Elizabeth and her court, strives to renew astrology adapting it to the changes that are taking place in the scientific culture. The result is a new astrological text, the *Propaedeumata aphoristica* (London 1558), and a new science of heavenly virtues, processed according to mathematical analysis and experimental research, by analogy with the theory of light. The new theory of astral influences aims to perfect the practice, but ultimately confirms the limits of astrological prediction, evidenced by Ptolemy since antiquity. The astrologer will never get a total and definitive control of the dynamics governing the influence of the stars on human life.

Keywords

John Dee – Astrology – Natural Philosophy – Astronomy – Optics

ANTONIO RAINONE

LINGUAGGIO ED EMPATIA IN W.V. QUINE

Abstract

This paper is an attempt at historical-critical reconstruction of W.V. Quine's theory of empathy in radical translation, in the acquisition of language, and in the ascription of intentional states as propositional attitudes. Only in the last years of his reflection Quine did elaborate his method of empathy in translation and in folk psychology, often contrasting it, even if only implicitly, to the famous principle of charity. The empathic model of translation and interpretation turns out to be an important contribution in the Quinean approach to language; in particular, the Quinean analysis of attribution of belief sentences, according to the empathic method, appears to present some affinity with the interpretation in terms of possible worlds.

Keywords

W.V. Quine – Empathy – Principle of Charity – Radical Translation – Propositional Attitudes

GIOVANNI ROTIROTI

L'IMMAGINE DELLA DONNA, DELL'ISTERIA E DELL'AMORE RIVOLUZIONARIO IN ROMANIA A PARTIRE DALL'OPERA GIOVANILE DI GHERASIM LUCA E DI EMIL CIORAN

Abstract

The article analyses the reactions of Gherasim Luca and Emil Cioran to Otto Weininger's *Sex and Character*. Cioran shares the theses of Weininger about love and sexual difference; Luca, instead, subverts their logic dialectically to show that the failure of the assimilation to the Symbolic Order is the creative moment of subjectivity.

Keywords

O. Weininger – Women – Desire – Negation of Negation – Hysteria

ANTONELLA SANNINO

FATO, NECESSITÀ E CAUSALITÀ ASTRALE IN GUGLIELMO D'ALVERNIA

Abstract

This essay deals with William of Auvergne's arguments against astral causality and necessity. The astral causality identically operates on the individuals with the same nativity, influencing their dispositions and determining human actions. The necessity or *eimarmene*, namely fate, is caused by which things connected to others that arise or become a series. This essay particularly focuses on showing how William of Auvergne uses two categories to argue against this conception of fate: one that defines it as a substance and another that outlines it as a function.

Keywords

Fate – Necessity – Astral causality – Will – *Italici philosophi*

PINELLA TRAVAGLIA

TEMI ALCHEMICI E MOTIVI RELIGIOSI NEL KITĀB AL-RAḤMA DI ĠĀBIR IBN ḤAYYĀN

Abstract

For several reasons, the Kitāb al-raḥma (Book of Mercy), composed by the first and most important Arabian alchemist, Ġābir ibn Ḥayyān, who lived mainly in Kūfa and Baghdad during the 8th century of the Christian Age, proves to be of major importance for the learning and understanding of Ġābirian alchemy. First of all, it is the first work in a corpus consisting of thousands of texts, both Ġābir's and his scholars', up to the 10th century. Secondly, the Kitāb conveys theoretical ideas besides technical precepts already discussed in other alchemical works. Such elements, which are the main focus of this short essay, represent the essential principles of Ġābir's alchemical doctrine: the "way" of art, the theory of elixir, the relationship between spirit and body.

Keywords

Ġābirian alchemy – Cosmology – Elixir – Spirit - Body