

INTRODUCTION

About Perspectives

Perspectives: International Postgraduate Journal of Philosophy is a peer-reviewed annual publication, featuring articles, book reviews and interviews encompassing a broad range of current issues in philosophy and its related disciplines. *Perspectives* reflects the diverse interests of the graduate philosophy community at University College Dublin, publishing work from within both the analytic and continental traditions. We welcome submissions addressing philosophical problems from related disciplines, including cognitive science and psychology. *Perspectives* publishes the highest standard of postgraduate scholarship.

About this Issue

The second issue of *Perspectives: International Postgraduate Journal of Philosophy* is a special edition on continental philosophy. The articles in this issue cover a range of themes and concerns in the continental tradition and demonstrate the broad spectrum of the research interests of our contributors from Ireland, Europe, and the United States.

In the interview ‘Infinitely Demanding Anarchism’, Simon Critchley discusses his book *Infinitely Demanding: Ethics of Commitment, Politics of Resistance*, answering questions on his departure from Derrida’s thought, the trajectory of his work from the question over Heidegger’s fascism to a Levinasian anarchism, how he understands ethics, politics and political action, the relation of his thought to the wider anarchist tradition and whether his ethics has clear normative consequences.

In her article ‘Intertwined Identities: Challenges to Bodily Autonomy’ Gail Weiss explores the implications of conceiving the ‘normal’ body as an autonomous body. In particular, she focuses on cases of conjoined twins and critically examines the reasons behind surgical and familial decisions to undergo separation surgery. Considering the enormous risks involved in such surgeries, she challenges the prevailing concept of ‘one body, one identity’ and looks at its role in these decisions.

In her paper ‘Perception and Painting in Merleau-Ponty’s Thought’ Carolyne Quinn offers an analysis of Merleau-Ponty’s philosophy of perception and his writing on painting. Focusing on three of Merleau-Ponty’s essays on painting ‘Cezanne’s Doubt’, ‘Indirect Language and the Voices of Silence’ and ‘Eye Mind’, this paper offers a unique analysis of

perception as a creative and expressive experience.

Tsutomu Ben Yagi's paper 'Beyond Subjectivity: Kierkegaard's Self and Heidegger's *Dasein*' considers the departure made from classical notions of subjectivity by these thinkers. He argues that their temporalisation and finitisation of subjectivity leads away from a metaphysical understanding of subjectivity and moves towards a more existential understanding that breaks most successfully from the history of metaphysics with Heidegger.

In 'Apodicticity and Transcendental Phenomenology', Bence Marosan investigates the possibilities for apodicticity or unshakable future validity in phenomenology. He argues that apodicticity gains its proper sense from a theoretical framework and calls for a reconciliation of the many divergences within phenomenology itself in order to preserve this framework and the philosophical life of truth.

Jennifer Lemma's article 'Language Acquisition, Motherhood, and the Perpetual Preservation of Ethical Dialogue,' explores the paradigm of motherhood as a vehicle for language acquisition in the work of Julia Kristeva. She focuses on the mother/child relationship at the centre of Kristeva's analysis, and evaluates its implications as a model for ethical discourse.

Tom Sparrow's contribution to this collection 'Bodies in Transit: The Plastic Subject of Alphonso Lingis' explores the work of the living and contemporary philosopher Alphonso Lingis. This paper describes Lingis' phenomenology of sensation and his reflections of travel. It will be seen that the subject of Lingis' writing features a plasticity of the body. Furthermore materiality of affect and the alimentary nature of sensation will be examined.

This issue closes with a selection of book reviews that encompass a broader selection of philosophical themes, including ancient philosophy, Jacques Derrida, Jürgen Habermas, and animal ethics.

It is with great pleasure that we publish the second issue of *Perspectives*. Many thanks to our contributors, board of reviewers, designer and all others whose support and encouragement have been invaluable.

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Editors
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