

Metodo. International Studies in Phenomenology and Philosophy

Thematic issue on “Naturalism and Subjectivity”

Editors: Dr. Pietro Giuffrida, Dr. Michela Summa

Call for contributions

Over recent decades, naturalism has progressively become one of the leading positions in philosophical debate. The contemporary trend in philosophy has often been characterized by a widespread influence of naturalism both as a methodological and as an ontological position.

Naturalistic theories have been developed concerning such different domains as the theory of knowledge, the theory of mind, and ethical discourse. Yet, it is particularly with respect to the theory of mind and studies of consciousness that the debate on naturalism has turned to phenomenology. Different attempts have been made to “naturalize” the phenomenological analyses of consciousness and subjectivity, and a range of ideas have been proposed regarding what such a naturalization would amount to.

The conspicuous number of studies in phenomenology and the cognitive sciences, which have been developed over the last years, show that there is still much space left for a fruitful collaboration between the natural sciences and philosophy (notably phenomenology). Besides, the large spreading of naturalism within philosophical debate goes hand in hand with a proliferation of understandings of naturalism, and of the relation between philosophy and the natural sciences. The question of how epistemological, ontological and methodological naturalism relate to transcendental philosophy, for instance, is largely debated in both analytic philosophy and phenomenology. Moreover, “harder” and “softer” versions of naturalism have been distinguished. The former imply the sort of methodological and ontological reductionism phenomenology is notably critical of. Whereas the latter would still enhance the dialogue between philosophy and the empirical sciences, yet without giving up the specific status of the philosophical, and particularly the transcendental, questions.

This thematic issue of *Metodo* will be devoted to the relation between naturalism and subjectivity. Original contributions regarding the following topics are particularly encouraged:

- The variants of naturalism and their respective accounts of subjectivity. How do the different forms of naturalism relate to with the problem of the naturalization of the first-person perspective? What are the specific implications of the different naturalistic projects for the understanding of subjectivity?
- What is the philosophical method best equipped for an interdisciplinary dialogue between the natural and the cognitive sciences?

- Given the specific problems of mind, consciousness, and subjectivity, what other possible methods are available?
- Is the phenomenological critique of naturalism necessarily related to the understanding of phenomenology as a transcendental philosophy, and of subjectivity as transcendental subjectivity? Is it necessary to assume a transcendental stance in order to criticize naturalism?
- The concept of nature endorsed in the different versions of naturalism, and the phenomenological concept of nature: How do varied understandings of nature relate to the naturalistic versus anti-naturalistic accounts of subjectivity?
- How do naturalistic projects deal with the personalistic account of subjectivity, values, and ethics?

Submitted papers must be in accordance with the basic principles of Metodo (see presentation: <http://www.metodo-rivista.eu>). All contributions will be peer-reviewed by two anonymous referees.

Deadline: 1st Mai, 2013

Invited contributions:

Lynne Baker (University of Massachusetts)

Mario De Caro (Università Roma Tre)

Antonio Maria Nunziante (Università degli studi di Padova)

Sonja Rinofner-Kreidl (Universität Graz)

Jan Slaby (Freie Universität Berlin)

Galen Strawson (University of Reading)