

Anticipating instrumental reason, is it still possible after Adorno?

Abstract for the session organized by Gertrudis Van de Vijver

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Today philosophy is in distress. Philosophers however, do not seem to recognize this distress. As their sole occupation today is 'to exhaust concepts' by analyzing them meticulously aiming to resolve contradiction in order to attain consensus, this observation should come to no surprise. But maybe the biggest revelation is that philosophers do not seem to recognize that their rules of engagement have become rules of inclusion and exclusion. In this paper I will claim (i) that by merely 'exhausting concepts' the task of philosophers has become subservient to instrumental reasoning and (ii) that by subscribing their methodology to the rules of inclusion and exclusion philosophers have become blind to immanent critique. While it might be argued that Adorno has already anticipated and addressed these claims exhaustively, I will reconstruct his arguments by reintroducing metaphysics pertaining to the idea itself in which the mediation, not so much the distinction, between subject and object can claim its rightful place in our contemporary world. As this contemporary world is increasingly inhabited with people – such as refugees and those that, in some way or the other are not allowed to participate fully in society – that, while *existing* 'visibly', are only allowed to *live* 'invisibly', this paper will provide an anticipatory inspired account of the invisibility of life and lives that await us in the near future. In this way this paper will put its finger on the open wound left bleeding by disengaged philosophies and propose a philosophical architecture based on a philosophy that is inspired by engagement of which the parameters are the fourfold act of knowing, giving meaning, democratizing and becoming a citizen.

Keywords.

Adorno, engagement, instrumental reasoning, immanent critique, anticipation