

Philosophical Studies Series

Volume 149

Editor-in-Chief

Mariarosaria Taddeo, Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

Editorial Board Member

Patrick Allo, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussel, Belgium

Advisory Editors

Lynne Baker, Department of Philosophy, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA

Stewart Cohen, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, USA

Radu Bogdan, Department of Philosophy, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, USA

Marian David, Karl-Franzens-Universität, Graz, Austria

John Fischer, University of California, Riverside, Riverside, CA, USA

Keith Lehrer, University Of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, USA

Denise Meyerson, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia

Francois Recanati, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Institut Jean Nicod, Paris, France

Mark Sainsbury, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, USA

Barry Smith, State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY, USA

Nicholas Smith, Department of Philosophy, Lewis and Clark College, Portland, OR, USA

Linda Zagzebski, Department of Philosophy, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK, USA

Philosophical Studies Series aims to provide a forum for the best current research in contemporary philosophy broadly conceived, its methodologies, and applications. Since Wilfrid Sellars and Keith Lehrer founded the series in 1974, the book series has welcomed a wide variety of different approaches, and every effort is made to maintain this pluralism, not for its own sake, but in order to represent the many fruitful and illuminating ways of addressing philosophical questions and investigating related applications and disciplines.

The book series is interested in classical topics of all branches of philosophy including, but not limited to:

- Ethics
- Epistemology
- Logic
- Philosophy of language
- Philosophy of logic
- Philosophy of mind
- Philosophy of religion
- Philosophy of science

Special attention is paid to studies that focus on:

- the interplay of empirical and philosophical viewpoints
- the implications and consequences of conceptual phenomena for research as well as for society
- philosophies of specific sciences, such as philosophy of biology, philosophy of chemistry, philosophy of computer science, philosophy of information, philosophy of neuroscience, philosophy of physics, or philosophy of technology; and
- contributions to the formal (logical, set-theoretical, mathematical, information-theoretical, decision-theoretical, etc.) methodology of sciences.

Likewise, the applications of conceptual and methodological investigations to applied sciences as well as social and technological phenomena are strongly encouraged.

Philosophical Studies Series welcomes historically informed research, but privileges philosophical theories and the discussion of contemporary issues rather than purely scholarly investigations into the history of ideas or authors. Besides monographs, *Philosophical Studies Series* publishes thematically unified anthologies, selected papers from relevant conferences, and edited volumes with a well-defined topical focus inside the aim and scope of the book series. The contributions in the volumes are expected to be focused and structurally organized in accordance with the central theme(s), and are tied together by an editorial introduction. Volumes are completed by extensive bibliographies.

The series discourages the submission of manuscripts that contain reprints of previous published material and/or manuscripts that are below 160 pages/88,000 words.

For inquiries and submission of proposals authors can contact the editor-in-chief Mariarosaria Taddeo via: mariarosaria.taddeo@oii.ox.ac.uk

More information about this series at <https://link.springer.com/bookseries/6459>

Bernardo Ferro

Masters, Slaves and Philosophers

Plato, Hegel and Nietzsche on Freedom and
the Pursuit of Knowledge



Springer

Bernardo Ferro
Institute for Philosophical Studies
University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal

ISSN 0921-8599

ISSN 2542-8349 (electronic)

Philosophical Studies Series

ISBN 978-3-030-90404-3

ISBN 978-3-030-90405-0 (eBook)

<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-90405-0>

© The Editor(s) (if applicable) and The Author(s), under exclusive license to Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2022

This work is subject to copyright. All rights are solely and exclusively licensed by the Publisher, whether the whole or part of the material is concerned, specifically the rights of translation, reprinting, reuse of illustrations, recitation, broadcasting, reproduction on microfilms or in any other physical way, and transmission or information storage and retrieval, electronic adaptation, computer software, or by similar or dissimilar methodology now known or hereafter developed.

The use of general descriptive names, registered names, trademarks, service marks, etc. in this publication does not imply, even in the absence of a specific statement, that such names are exempt from the relevant protective laws and regulations and therefore free for general use.

The publisher, the authors and the editors are safe to assume that the advice and information in this book are believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication. Neither the publisher nor the authors or the editors give a warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to the material contained herein or for any errors or omissions that may have been made. The publisher remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

This Springer imprint is published by the registered company Springer Nature Switzerland AG
The registered company address is: Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland

Abbreviations and Translations

All translations of Plato's works are taken from the Loeb edition, published by Harvard University Press, with occasional modifications. The dialogues are identified by the following abbreviations, followed by the relevant Stephanus numbers.

<i>Ap</i>	<i>The Apology</i>	<i>Phd</i>	<i>Phaedo</i>
<i>Cra</i>	<i>Cratylus</i>	<i>Phdr</i>	<i>Phaedrus</i>
<i>Cri</i>	<i>Crito</i>	<i>Phi</i>	<i>Philebus</i>
<i>Eu</i>	<i>Euthyphro</i>	<i>Pr</i>	<i>Protagoras</i>
<i>Go</i>	<i>Gorgias</i>	<i>Re</i>	<i>The Republic</i>
<i>La</i>	<i>Laws</i>	<i>So</i>	<i>The Sophist</i>
<i>Ly</i>	<i>Lysis</i>	<i>St</i>	<i>The Statesman</i>
<i>Me</i>	<i>Meno</i>	<i>Sy</i>	<i>Symposium</i>
<i>Pa</i>	<i>Paemenides</i>	<i>Th</i>	<i>Theaetetus</i>

As regards Hegel's works, reference is given first to the English translation, indicated by the abbreviations listed below, followed by a slash and the indication of the German edition. All German references are taken from *Werke in zwanzig Bänden* (eds. E. Moldenhauer and K. M. Michel. Frankfurt: Suhrkamp, 1986), abbreviated as 'HW' and followed by the volume and page numbers. Where no English edition is indicated, the translation is mine.

- DFS *The Difference Between Fichte's and Schelling's System of Philosophy* (Albany: State of New York University Press, 1977)
- EL *Encyclopedia of the Philosophical Sciences in Basic Outline. Part I: Science of Logic* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010)
- ETW *Early Theological Writings* (Pennsylvania: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1971)
- FK *Faith and Knowledge* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1977)
- LHP *Lectures on the History of Philosophy* (Lincoln: Nebraska University Press, 1995)
- PM *Philosophy of Mind* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007)
- PN *Philosophy of Nature* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1970)
- PR *Outlines of the Philosophy of Right* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008)
- PS *Phenomenology of Spirit* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1970)
- SL *Science of Logic* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010)

As regards Nietzsche's works, reference is given first to the English translation, indicated by the abbreviations listed below, followed by a slash and the indication of the German edition. All German references are taken from the *Kritische Studienausgabe* (eds. G. Colli and M. Montinari. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1988), abbreviated as 'KSA' and followed by the volume and page numbers. Where no English edition is indicated, the translation is mine.

- A *The Antichrist, Ecce Homo, Twilight of the Idols* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005)
 BGE *Beyond Good and Evil* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002)
 BT *The Birth of Tragedy and Other Writings* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999)
 D *Daybreak: Thoughts on the Prejudices of Morality* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999)
 GM *On the Genealogy of Morality* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006)
 GS *The Gay Science. With a Prelude in German Rhymes and an Appendix of Songs* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001)
 HAH *Human, All Too Human: A Book for Free Spirits* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996)
 TSZ *Thus Spoke Zarathustra: A Book for All and None* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006)

As regards the works by other authors, where no English edition is indicated the translation is mine. Unless otherwise noted, all quotations retain their original emphases.

Acknowledgements

This book is a substantially revised version of my first doctoral dissertation, presented in 2017 at the New University of Lisbon. What started out as a study on Hegel's engagement with Plato and the Platonic tradition ended up becoming a much wider historical survey, centred on three of the most important, fascinating, but also difficult thinkers of the history of philosophy. In what follows, I revisit the works of Plato, Hegel and Nietzsche in order to draw a brief conceptual genealogy of one of philosophy's oldest and most significant debates: the question of whether, how and to what extent human freedom depends on the acquisition of knowledge.

Before getting started, I would like to thank all of those who contributed to the successful completion of this project. First of all, a special mention is due to my supervisor, Mário Jorge de Carvalho, to whom I owe most of my philosophical training. His brilliant lectures on Plato's dialogues and Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*, given at the New University Lisbon, provided the inspiration for this work, and his invaluable advice and criticism have helped me find my way in a complex and often confusing philosophical labyrinth.

During most of my PhD, my research was funded by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), through my membership of the Institute for Philosophical Studies (IEF), and by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), which allowed me to spend 1 year at Humboldt University in Berlin. I am grateful to Tobias Rosefeldt for supporting my application and letting me take part in his weekly research seminar, to Bernhard Thöle for his interest in my work and especially to Franz Knappik for his helpful comments on an earlier version of the manuscript. I am also particularly indebted to Karin de Boer for her unfailing generosity and her shrewd criticism during the preparation of this book.

Finally, I would also like to thank Max Marcuzzi, Jacinto Rivera de Rosales, Nuno Ferro, Martim Enes Dias, Lucas Manarte and Hélder Telo for their philosophical and literary input, as well as my family and friends for their support and encouragement during the last years. I dedicate this book to all of them.

Contents

Abbreviations and Translations	v
Acknowledgements	vii
1 Introduction	1
1.1 A Brief Anatomy of Freedom	3
1.2 Freedom and Education	11
1.3 Plato, Hegel and Nietzsche	20
1.3.1 Plato’s Philosophical Project	21
1.3.2 Hegel’s Phenomenological Project	26
1.3.3 Nietzsche’s Metacognitive Project	30
1.4 Historical Affinities	33
1.5 Research Background	37
Part I Plato’s Philosophical Project	
2 Plato’s Idea of Truth	47
2.1 Truth, Opinion and Doxa	48
2.2 Self-Confidence and Self-Interest	58
2.3 Body and Soul	65
3 Masters, Slaves and Philosophers	75
3.1 Rhetors and Philosophers	76
3.2 Socrates Versus Callicles	82
3.3 Masters and Slaves	87
4 Chains and Shadows	97
4.1 Inside the Cave	99
4.2 Towards the Light	107
4.3 The Self as Shadow	113

5	Philosophy and Deliverance	117
5.1	The Need for Deliverance	119
5.2	The Possibility of Deliverance	123
5.3	Plato and Hegel	128
Part II Hegel's Phenomenological Project		
6	Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit	135
6.1	Truth and Appearance	137
6.2	Experience as Science	145
6.3	Further Hermeneutical Issues	152
7	Knowledge, Power and Freedom	159
7.1	Selfhood and Otherness	160
7.2	Selfhood as Recognition	169
7.3	Masters, Slaves and Philosophers	176
7.4	The Unhappy Consciousness	187
8	Towards Freedom	195
8.1	Reason and Spirit	196
8.2	The Trials of Spirit	206
8.3	Tragedy and Comedy	214
9	Beyond the Phenomenology	219
9.1	Final Revelations	221
9.2	Science and the System	225
9.3	Hegel and Nietzsche	231
Part III Nietzsche's Metacognitive Project		
10	Nietzsche's Idea of Truth	237
10.1	The Will to Truth	240
10.2	Truth and Metaphor	246
10.3	Science and Wisdom	253
11	Philosophy in Chains	263
11.1	The Socratic Turn	264
11.2	Athens and Jerusalem	268
11.3	Masters and Slaves	274
11.4	Asceticism and Nihilism	281
12	Philosophy Unchained	287
12.1	The Will to Power	288
12.2	Return to Callicles	293
13	Conclusions	301
	Bibliography	305
	Index	311

Did you not see the helpless infirmity,
no better than a dream, in which
the blind generation of men is shackled?

AESCHYLUS (?), *Prometheus Bound*