

Abstract

The present dissertation deals with the topic of the relationship between political and moral philosophy and the epistemological and methodological arguments of Friedrich August von Hayek. The aim of the dissertation is to defend in general the assertion that Hayek's philosophy is the application of epistemological and methodological positions to moral and political philosophy and that this application is implemented through the continuous process of defining the basic theoretical positions towards philosophical tradition. This general statement is elaborated on in several perspectives. The first perspective puts the concept of knowledge in the forefront, both in the sense of a certain concept of rationality, i.e. the nature of reason and human thinking, and also in the sense of defining the nature and limits of scientific inquiry. The latter follows the development of Hayek's thinking, pointing out the aspects of his philosophy, which are the elaboration of the theories of his predecessors in thought within the Austrian economic school or classical sociology. This perspective also shows that, at a certain stage of his thinking, Hayek considerably moves away from these predecessors, particularly in the context of grasping individualism. The third perspective shows the deeper roots of some of Hayek's positions in modern philosophy and based on criticism of constructivist rationalism, his work can be grasped as a follow-up to David Hume's key concepts. Hayek shows that the parameters of the debate on the current key theoretical, methodological, and social-scientific problems of his era were set in early modern times. Last but not least, a comparison with the work of K. Popper, both in terms of methodology and social theory, has been carried out in the context of the necessary contextualization of Hayek's project of the epistemological foundation of liberalism. Hayek's evolutionism, which, on the one hand shows the insufficiency of individualism, plays a central role in all of the argumentation, and at the same time provides an instrument for applying the essentially skeptical character of Hayek's philosophy to knowledge in both its meanings.

Key words: F. A. Hayek, Evolution, Liberalism, Epistemology, Methodology of Science, Skepticism