

Abstract

The aim of this diploma thesis is to offer a comprehensive commentary of Patočka's unpublished lectures on Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*, which he gave at the Charles University during the summer semester of 1949. These lectures remain unfinished and the exposition of the *Phenomenology of Spirit* ends before the chapter on morality. Patočka is influenced, to a considerable degree, by the unorthodox reading of Hegel that Kojève presents in his *Introduction à la lecture de Hegel* (1947) and also by a somewhat more conservative commentary by Jean Hyppolite, published in 1946 under the title *Genese et structure de la Phénoménologie de l'esprit de Hegel*. This thesis follows their influence on Patočka's commentary, in an attempt to discover Patočka's own interpretative stance. Patočka places the *Phenomenology of Spirit* into a wide context and tries to illustrate its genesis. Following Kojève, Patočka's interpretation remains nested within an anthropological perspective, considering the master-slave dialectic to be the centerpiece of Hegel's philosophy.