

**Abstract:**

What is a problem? Philosophy constantly revolves around problems and is driven by them, yet the question of what precisely constitutes a problem is rarely addressed. My work responds to this situation with a systematic investigation of the phenomenon of philosophical problems. To begin with, I outline five conditions that such an investigation must meet in principle and provide a (brief) overview of previous discussions on philosophical problems, which can be classified into three types of explicit problem definitions. A tension becomes apparent here, as problems are either underdetermined in their conditions or defined dogmatically, insofar as a certain feature of problematicity is simply posited. In order to avoid this dilemma, I propose, at the core of this work, a transcendental-empiricist approach to philosophical problems, drawing on the ideas of Gilles Deleuze and Eugen Fink, which highlights different aspects under which something appears as a problem using well-known examples from the history of philosophy. The fundamental insight here is that the essential characteristic of a problem is the ‚Problematic‘, which is not merely a matter of our ignorance, but rather an inherent mode or structure of states of affairs. Starting from this, the relationship between problem and problem-posing proves to be crucial. Problem-posing reveals how a problem is constructed from within, what motivates it, and how problems differ from one another, while also indicating how they can still be similar. Problem-posing not only gives the problem its specific shape but also contains the conditions for its solution as well as the quality of the solution; accordingly, types of false problem-posing are addressed here. Finally, it is shown that problematicity describes an overarching state of affairs to which a certain number of general (including unreflective) modes of engagement responds. Thus, this work contributes to a richer understanding of a fundamental phenomenon in philosophy, which is constantly referred to yet hardly thematized in contemporary discussions.

**Keywords:**

Problematicity, Phenomenology, Transcendental Empiricism, Metaphilosophy, Deleuze, Fink