

Tomáš Pivoda, The Multiplicity of Being: The Ontology of Alain Badiou

PhD thesis

Abstract

The thesis introduces for the first time in the Czech philosophical context the ontology of the French philosopher Alain Badiou, as he set it out in his fundamental work *Being and Event (L'être et l'événement, 1988)*. It first presents the starting point of Badiou's philosophy as well as the reasons of his identification of ontology with the set theory, and it points out Badiou's importance for contemporary philosophy, especially for the so called speculative realism around Quentin Meillassoux. The main axis of the exposition is then built around Badiou's four fundamental "Ideas": the multiplicity, the event, the truths and the subject, in connection with which it is shown how Badiou constructs his conceptual apparatus out of individual axioms of the set theory, whereby he follows the basic formal definition of multiplicity based on the operator \in . In connection with the first Idea of multiplicity, the thesis exposes - with references to Martin Heidegger and Plato - Badiou's conceptual transposition of the couple one/multiple on the couple existence/being and defines the fundamental concepts of his ontology - the situation, the presentation, the representation and the void, with the help of which Badiou interprets traditional concepts like the concept of nature. In connection with the second Idea (the event), the thesis introduces the so called "historical situations" that arise from the fact of an interventional naming of a locally situated event. Based on the concept of "fidelity to an event", the thesis expands on Badiou's conception of the so called generic procedures (of science, politics, art and love), which produce truths as infinite and indiscernible series or sets of "faithful" elements of a situation, whereby it points out that for Badiou, subjects are precisely local configurations of these procedures. The subject thus becomes a "co-author" of the truths thanks to its ability to force their validity as truths on the basis of a future verification. The thesis concludes with a chapter on Badiou's notion of philosophy as conceptual practice conditioned by generic procedures, whereby it concentrates in more detail on one of them - love - as an incessant production of a doubled "disjunct" subject.

Key words

ontology, being, subject, philosophy, love, multiplicity, set theory, mathematics, truth, thought, Being and Event, speculative realism, constructivism, forcing, intervention, fidelity, deduction ad absurdum, nothing, void, definition, chance, presentation, representation, axiomatic system, subtraction, infinity, concept, conceptual persona, Alain Badiou, Quentin Meillassoux, Gilles Deleuze, Platón, Jacques Lacan, Martin Heidegger