

Deibl Stefan

Die Frage nach dem Phänomen Leben. Methodische Zugänge bei Schrödinger, Monod, Pross und Hegel

Supervisor: Kurt Appel

Abstract (English)

This dissertation examines approaches to the phenomenon (of) life, which is a crucial object of science, philosophy, and theology. On part contains an interpretation of publications from the area of natural science: Chance and Necessity (Monod), What is Life? (Schrödinger) and What is Life? (Pross). These texts exhibit tensions, which derive from the seeming incompatibility between a scientifically inspired postulate of the objectivity of nature and an undeniable subjective aspect (i.e. it is not completely reducible to an objective causal explanation). Some strategies for trying to solve this contradiction become apparent. Monod and Pross seek to mediate the tension by reducing the subjective aspect to objective preconditions. With Schrödinger, there are two equivalent realms: natural law and freedom. The intrinsic link can be understood through the implicit influence of Leibniz' Monadology. The other part of the dissertation stems from assessments of Aristotle and Kant (Selbstzweck): the dialectic-thinking of Hegel. Firstly, Hegel's dialectic is the basis for the consideration of the scientific texts. The dialectic values natural science but also 'provokes' its methods and claims to validity by exposing unproven presuppositions. Hegel's dialectic reveals modes of thought that attempt to establish the primacy of either an objective or a subjective aspect as fundamentally insufficient. Secondly, Hegel's view on life is demonstrated through the Phenomenology of Spirit, in which a subjective-objective-approach is a constitutive part. The approaches to the phenomenon (of) life elucidate the importance of an interdisciplinary exchange in order to avoid observations that privilege either the objective or subjective aspect.