

## ABSTRACTS

Renata Viti Cavaliere

*Natus sum. The Concept of "Birth" in Philosophy*

The "birth" could be the main concept of a philosophy of the commencement: indeed it is not only a biological event or an effective metaphor for new beginning, but also the sign that being, knowledge and action, born themselves, have the power to give birth to something. Birth is essentially which has neither memory nor appropriation of itself: it's a destiny and a choice that confirm the features of necessity and freedom bound in every coming into the world.

Thoughts about birth can be found *per exempla* in Arendt's, Nietzsche's and Vico's works as well as in the ancient and modern age, wherever the burden of the change has been felt. The concept of birth passes through the contemporary philosophy which wants to rebuild the historical framework of the critical reflection.

Lidia Palumbo

*Births and Rebirths*

In this paper I examine two different contexts about the semantics of Birth in the ancient philosophical culture:

Empedocles and the tragic theatre. In his reflection about the nature of things Empedocles maintained that the term “Birth” can not be used because everything always and only results from the mix and the separation of the elements. The tragic theatre – from Aeschylus’ *The Seven Against Thebes* to Sophocles’ *Oedipus the King* – uses the reflection on birth as a means to explore the meaning of existence.

Valeria Sorge

*Births and Metamorphosis*

The Autor discusses the central thesis of *Metamorphosis* as rebirth with a particular care to: 1) the metamorphic mythes as individualization of the problematic nucleus of *philosophia naturalis* from A. Magno to P. d’Abano; 2) the legitimation of the *Metamorphosis* as «accomplishment» of the problem of the astral influences in *Physics* of Pietro Pomponazzi. The deepest theoretical connection pinpointed among Ovidio’s, P. d’Abano’s, Pomponazzi,s and Bruno,s topics, constitutes the perspective of this essay, peculiarity in the context of *Ermeneutics* about birth and rebirth.

Rossella Bonito Oliva

*Open Relationship: individual Variant of Life, Birth versus Death*

Birth is the beginning of life; an event perceived in the past centuries as something that is natural. Nevertheless life, originated by birth as for every human life, is part of everything a human being does of himself through historical and cultural processes.

Indeed it is the progress of technology itself that has radically modified the primary and biological vision of birth because through modern devices, birth can be produced, stimulated and even screened.

Despite this Birth in Philosophy suffers a sort of exclusion: it is the Death, or even better the consciousness of Death inevitability, characterizing human life. This exclusion has his roots into the isolation of the subject of love, of the body language and after all, of the woman as meaningful expressions of life form.

From this space one can start to conceive a culture and a human event being at the same time both open and plural.

Laura Bazzicalupo  
*Birth as biopolitic Event*

The article develops a contradiction in the concept of birth from the point of view of political philosophy: as Arendt says, it is an event, that manifest the *initium* and the originality of the life: a mark of freedom which is given with the fact of the birth of man and resides in his capacity to make a new beginning; but, in the foucaultian perspective, that offers a systematic approach to social organization of medical power and to governmentality of medicalized pregnancy, birth appears as a construction of biopolitic power, a machine of knowledge submitted to medical power, so an effect of power, that proves the possibility of being conditioned, its being governable and foreseeable.



## NOTIZIE SULLE AUTRICI

Laura Bazzicalupo insegna Filosofia politica nell'Università di Salerno. Ha scritto di recente le monografie *Superbia. La passione dell'essere* (Bologna 2008), *Il governo delle vite. Biopolitica ed economia*, (Roma-Bari 2006), *Politica identità potere* (Torino 2004); ha curato *Impersonale* (Milano 2009) e con R. Esposito *Politica della vita* (Roma-Bari 2003)

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