

Estudos Kantianos 2020/2

Kant's *Inaugural Dissertation* of 1770

250 years after its publication, Kant's *Inaugural Dissertation* of 1770 *De mundi sensibilis atque intelligibilis forma et principiis* continues to represent one of the most complex and enigmatic texts of the entire production of the Königsberg philosopher. This for a number of reasons, such as:

- 1) Its temporal collocation at the beginning of the famous silent decade, which will end with the publication of the first edition of the *Critique of Pure Reason* in 1781. This means that the *Dissertation* is the last text published by Kant before the critical turn, and on this basis some scholars have wondered about the possibility of finding already in the text of 1770 some traces of that “great light”, which in *Reflexion* 5037 (1776-1778) Kant declares to have experienced in 1769. The debate about the theoretical issue or the author with which this “great light” is to be identified is a topic on which the specialists have been divided—from F. Paulsen to B. Erdmann, from H. Heimsoeth to M. Wundt—identifying it alternatively with Kant's reading of Hume, Plato, or Leibniz's *New Essays*.
- 2) The possibility of, already in the *Dissertation*, individuating some elements that cross the subsequent decade and reach the *Critique of Pure Reason* almost unchanged: this is, for example, the case of space and time and the consequent notion of “phenomenon”, which is delineated in reference to the *mundus sensibilis*.
- 3) The early presence in the *Dissertation* of 1770 of an antinomian thought, a thesis that has been rigorously denied, among others, by K. Reich and H. Heimsoeth, and instead defended, for example, by N. Hinske.
- 4) The relation between intuitive and symbolic knowledge, which are opposed in this text, whereas in the critical philosophy they shall be associated in common opposition to the discursive knowledge characteristic of the understanding.
- 5) The problematic nature of the *intellectualia*, which Kant designates as the matter of the *mundus intelligibilis*, and which, on the one hand, do not seem to be traceable back to the Aristotelian-Scholastic substantial forms, but, on the other, are not yet identified with the pure concepts of the understanding coinciding with the categories of the first *Critique*.

These are but some of the elements around which the international debate on Kant's 1770 *Dissertation* continues to revolve. Given the crucial position occupied by this text in the “evolution of Kant's thought”—to quote the title of an important work by H. de Vleeschauwer, who not by chance has devoted much attention to the *Dissertation*—, even the studies that do not directly thematize this text seem to some extent to have to deal with the role it plays in posing some problems, the solution of which will be central to the genesis of Criticism. In light of these

stimuli, and on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the *Dissertation*, *Estudos Kantianos* devotes the second issue of 2020 to this text; a text which still seems to have much to say, not only to Kantian scholars.

The journal thus welcomes submissions on every aspect linked to Kant's *Inaugural Dissertation* of 1770, to its sources and to its various receptions also in the post-Kantian philosophy. The texts must be anonymous, prepared for a double-blind review process, and should follow the style patterns and bibliographic requirements as described in "Guidelines for Authors", in the page "About" of the Journal.

Contributions may be in English, German, French, Portuguese, Spanish and Italian.

Articles (no more than 50,000 characters including spaces and footnotes), accompanied by an abstract in English and 5 keywords, must be submitted via the electronic portal of the journal, at the following link:

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Authors must also send their contact information in a separate file.

The deadline for submission of the manuscripts is August 31, 2020, notification of acceptance by October 31, 2020.

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