

Preface: Theoria and Praxis: The History and Theory of Subjectivity  
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The idea of subjectivity has been a dominant theme within modern philosophy and social theory for centuries. This issue seeks to deal with the problems and intricacies of this concept. What are the prospects for new forms of subjectivity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Can we examine the insights of thinkers from the past and/or present as a source for agency, action, self-insight and self-consciousness?

Paul Hemming's article, for example, deals with the issue of subjectivity within the context of Hegel's theory of production and (re)production. The attainment of a universal subjectivity is seen to be central to Hegel's theory of history and consciousness as well as the Hegelian understanding of the state. Thomas Abrams' article on the governmental model of the drug thalidomide in disability studies raises the important question of tragic subject-formation and the role that can be played by social research as a form of action. Micheal Sean Bolton discusses the notion of a "post-human subjectivity"; no doubt an important theme that needs exploration in an age dominated by new forms of media that are having a great impact on conceptions of identity and selfhood. Wesley Furlotte explores the problematics of subjectivity through the notion of a "natural haunting" in the work of Hegel. The "traumatic fragmentation" in nature is a key theme, Furlotte argues, in the formation of subjective positions.

Lastly, this issue contains an insightful and important review of the latest major work of Slavoj Žižek—*Less Than Nothing*. Clearly, an exploration of the possibilities for subjectivity would benefit greatly from an examination of the work of one of the most important thinkers of the contemporary age.

Subjectivity is, and most be understood, as both a hope or potential as well as a pitfall or source of danger. Yet, it is something that seems to haunt and inhabit debates within philosophy, politics, and culture. How we act is tied to how we conceive or cogitate a subject or individual, capable or incapable, and its ability to act in the world. The subject is in relation to the traditional copula form of subject-object but is also the source of historical change. As a result, subjectivity is, and will continue to remain, a main source of inspiration and consternation in philosophy and social theory. This issue is an attempt to deal with this conundrum of the modern age.