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Table of Contents

Volume 11/1, Spring 2016

Editor's Introduction
Helmut Wautischer — iii
Sonoma State University

Thus Spake Romano
Carlin Romano — 1
Ursinus College

- **Carlin Romano, UnPhilosopher of the Philosophical Landscape**
  Paul Croce — 7
  Stetson University, Florida
- **Do Not Block Inquiry: Philosophy in America—The Tradition of Socrates and Peirce**
  Jacquelyn Ann Kegley — 16
  California State University, Bakersfield
- **On Not Being A (Typical) Philosopher**
  John J. Kaag — 23
  University of Massachusetts, Lowell
- **Envisioning a Fourth Wave**
  Mary V. Rorty — 27
  Stanford University

Evil as the Ghostly Doppelgänger of Good in Karl Jaspers
Czesława Piecuch — 31
Pedagogical University, Cracow, Poland

Sacrificing Sacrifice to Self-Sacrifice: Sublimation of Sacrificial Violence in Western Indo European Cultures during Karl Jaspers' Axial Period
Eric D. Meyer — 40
Independent Scholar, Idaho Falls, ID

Jaspers, Husserl, Kant: Boundary Situations as a Turning-Point
Gladys L. Portuondo — 51
Independent Scholar, Los Angeles, CA

The Erotico-Theoretical Transference Relationship between Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir Revisited with Michèle Le Dœuff
Ruth A. Burch — 57
Independent Scholar, Lugano-Paradiso, Switzerland

Editor's Introduction

With the extensive review of Carlin Romano's *America the Philosophical* (Knopf 2012), an essay on the relationship between good and evil, and an essay on sacrificial violence, Volume 11/1 taps with surprising accuracy into the current political landscape, both domestic and international. Four critics eloquently provided constructive criticism on the book. Paul Croce (Stetson University) takes on a Jamesian perspective when he positions some of Romano's claims into a marketplace of ideas; Jacquelin Kegley (CSU Bakersfield) uses a pragmatist lens for her assessment of intellectualism in America in general and specifically in the context of meetings organized for the philosophical profession at the American Philosophical Association, where she does notice a slow improvement in including under-representet voices; John Kaag (UMass Lowell) with emphasis on Isocrates and Richard Rorty; and Mary Rorty (Stanford) who sees Romano's book as a "fourth wave" in a long standing tradition dating back to Emerson, Dewey, and Rorty. Romano links some of his reply to the 2016 Presidential election and the surprising fact that Richard Rorty did envision already in 1998 that such political reality is in the making.

Czesława Piecuch (Pedagogical University, Cracow, Poland) offers a classical Jaspers study on the relationship between good and evil with its implications for moral improvement, something that appears to be of dire necessity in the present-day unfolding of political instability. The study by Eric Meyer (Independent Scholar) brings Jaspers' concept of Axial Age into the context of sacrificial violence in Western Indo-European cultures. Remnants of this violence are still present in ritual actions, but more blatantly also as a daily practice in some Middle Eastern societies. Jaspers' concept of boundary situations is addressed by Gladys Portuondo (Independent Scholar) in her comparison of Jaspers with Husserl and Kant. Ruth Burch (Independent Scholar) offers a view into body politics from a feminist perspective by commenting on Michèle Le Dœuff's interpretation of the relationship between Sartre and de Beauvoir.

General announcement: On behalf of the entire Existenz Board I would like to thank Alan M. Olson for his contributions and leadership as Co-Founder and Co-Editor of *Existenz*. Alan has now retired from all active roles with *Existenz* and we wish him healthy and rewarding retirement years.

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Mission Statement

The mission of *Existenz* is to encourage research and publication on problems and topics consistent with the general overview of Karl Jaspers, namely, the history of philosophy, phenomenology, existentialism, and hermeneutics; psychology, philosophy of religion, politics, culture, and the arts. This journal serves as a publication outlet for various international Jaspers societies, including those in the United States, Germany, Austria, Great Britain, Russia, and Japan, and also considers direct submissions of articles for online publication. *Existenz* is indexed in *The Philosopher's Index*.

Correspondence

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