



# Existenz

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# EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION



## **Kant, Hegel, and Werner Herzog**

Two outstanding books had been discussed at the 2020 Annual Meetings of the KJSNA. The January program, held in Philadelphia, featured Richard Eldridge's book on Werner Herzog; the February program, held in Chicago, featured Robert Brandom's book on Hegel. Additional program highlights included presentations on Kant, some of which are included here.

As a filmmaker, Werner Herzog is known for his uncompromising production methods and his unique ways of capturing existential dimensions of the human condition. As a philosopher, his quest for life's meaning is riddled with seemingly insurmountable obstacles portraying the absurdity of life. His insights into human nature are masterfully scripted and delivered to the screen. One comes to wonder whether the architects of the madness that continues to surround the Pandemic narratives took lessons from Herzog. And one also comes to wonder whether in this context there will be a sufficient number of courageous human beings who, like some of Herzog's protagonists, accept the epic battle in pursuit of upholding what brings meaning to their life; even if it were madness, it shall be their own.

Richard Eldridge's critics (Verena Kick, Francey Russell, John Baker jr, Brad Prager, Katrina Mitcheson) took aim at artistic interpretation and at the organization of the book, all of which resulted in a lively conversation that is partially presented here in Eldridge's response to the critics. Robert Brandom's critics (Mark Alznauer, Andrew Cutrofello, Pierre Keller, John Russon, Sebastian Stein) took aim coming from different philosophical traditions as they challenged various nuances of Brandom's meticulous and impressive Hegel interpretation. Brandom eloquently recognized the merits of the critiques and at the same time reinforces the accuracy of his interpretative approach.

Utilizing a Kantian perspective, Adam Graves compares pragmatic positions taken by Robert Brandom with normative ones taken by Christine Korsgaard. The topic of moral agency is discussed by Fritz McDonald who uses the "moral patient" platform in order to support a circumstantial reading of responsibility. The lead essay is by Courtney Morris who guides readers effectively to an understanding of how Kant would read Kant. Written with Kantian rigor and precision, the pedagogy of the essay makes it a valuable source for Kant scholars while at the same time also making it accessible for motivated readers.

Videotaped versions of twelve essays in this issue are posted at [existenz.us/media.html](http://existenz.us/media.html).

**Viewable on YouTube: Werner Herzog**

**Viewable on YouTube: Spirit of Trust**

Helmut Wautischer  
Editor-in-Chief

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