

EDITORS' INTRODUCTION

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On the occasion of the forthcoming publication of the English translation of Gilbert Simondon's *L'individuation psychique et collective*, *Parrhesia* is publishing its first themed issue, dedicated entirely to Simondon. Given the importance of Simondon's thought for continental philosophy, this translation constitutes nothing less than an event within the journal's field of interest—not just because of Simondon's importance for the work of, most notably, Gilles Deleuze, but also because of his central place in the work of contemporary philosophers such as Bernard Stiegler, whose essay on Simondon and Heidegger is published here in English for the first time.

Although the issue explores Simondon's position within the field of continental philosophy—the significance of his work for philosophers such as Stiegler, Paolo Virno, and Brian Massumi, as well as for continental philosophy at large (Simondon's relation to Heidegger, Marx, Nietzsche), the issue is first and foremost dedicated to the exploration of what one could call “Simondon *without X*”, with X standing in for any of the philosophers already mentioned. Indeed, because the translation of Simondon into English is only now beginning to happen, the English-speaking public has read Simondon largely through the lens of other thinkers, whose minds have conditioned their readers' familiarity with Simondon. But Simondon is of course not Deleuze, nor Stiegler, nor Heidegger, nor Marx: by publishing here two English translations of texts by Simondon, *Parrhesia* intends to return attention to Simondon's own thought, a return that the future publication of his work into English should help facilitate.

The first translation—“The Position of the Problem of Ontogenesis”—is an excerpt from the forthcoming *Psychic and Collective Individuation*. It constitutes the first part of Simondon's introduction to that book and presents a good introduction to his ontology: its theory of individuation, the pre-individual, the transindividual and ontogenesis. The second translation—“Technical Mentality”—is an essay that was published after Simondon's death, in a special issue (co-edited by Jean-Hugues Barthélémy) of the journal *Revue Philosophique*. This essay represents the second, major strand of his thought: technical objects. Taken together, these two translations can provide an introduction to Simondon's work as a whole.†

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The difficulty that we have had in putting this issue together can illustrate the importance of promoting English-language work on Simondon. There is a great deal of interest in his work, in particular on philosophy blogs, yet that interest hasn't, as yet, manifested itself as extensive scholarly exegesis. With this publication, *Parrhesia* would like to signal its interest in work related to Simondon's thought, and invite readers to contribute their essays, articles, or reviews related to Simondon or to aspects of his thought to future issues of the journal. *Parrhesia* would like to thank the publishers of the French originals of Simondon's work (Aubier and the Presses Universitaires de France) as well as the University of Minnesota Press for generously granting us permission to publish the English translations. We would also like to thank the Melbourne School of Continental Philosophy for funding translation rights. Finally, thanks are of course due to our contributors and translators for their commitment to the issue ■

† "The Position of the Problem of Ontogenesis" previously appeared as "The Genesis of the Individual" (trans. Mark Cohen and Sanford Kwinter) in: Crary, Jonathan and Sanford Kwinter, eds. *Incorporations*. New York: Zone, 1992. 296-319. The translation included here differs from this earlier version on a number of counts and features an extensive footnote apparatus by Jean-Hugues Barthélémy. "Technical Mentality" is published here in English for the first time.