The Fight against Logical Atomism and Pluralism (G. Lejeune, Université de Liège)

Abstract:

Bradley is often regarded as an Hegelian, but his references to Hegel in his work are far from being as pregnant as imagined. Moreover, they are frequently criticised, as Bradley seems to blame Hegel for some kind of intellectualism. Overall, a few themes of the Hegelian philosophy of mind, more than Hegel's Logik, are likely to have influenced Bradley. Besides, what he shares with Hegel is less the joint project of an organic reconstruction of finite and isolated knowledge as the only measure of the real. To oppose the atomist vision stemming from empiricism, Bradley was looking for a holistic and systematic framework, which he found in German thought. But then, he was less preoccupied with reconstituting this thought than with using it to answer the problems of his age. His proximity with Hegel regarding how thought originates knowledge helps him foster his opposition to pluralism. Admittedly, Hegel is a first choice critical resource for Bradley, while the Hegelian dialectic and its pretence for being the real is ruled out.