

The Teaching of Philosophy: On Hannah Arendt's Socrates Heinrich Bluecher

Initiative: "Originalitätsverdacht?" Neue Optionen für die Geistes- und Kulturwissenschaften (beendet)

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Have you ever thought about what it means to just teach philosophy instead of writing it down? Have you ever realized what it could mean to train thinking by listening and by entering into dialogue? The pursuit of such a philosophical practice is difficult, because it is hardly handed down. If it has happened, then only in written and appropriate structured form. In the case of Heinrich Bluecher, husband of the famous thinker Hannah Arendt, everything is different. According to several eyewitnesses, he was above all her intellectual companion, if not the man behind several of Arendt's insights - especially because he spoke with her. Bluecher himself taught philosophy in the USA. But he never put his thoughts to paper. His work was limited to oral practice. Hundreds of minutes of his lectures have been recorded on tape by his students. They are kept in the Stevenson Library at Bard College. That collection enables to ask what it means and what character it has to practice philosophy as a speaking and dialogic discipline. Additionally, it allows to understand how thoughts become scriptural, if there is one who is more inclined to writing as Hannah Arendt it was.

Projektbeteiligte

Dr. Ringo Rösener

Universität Leipzig

Institut für Kulturwissenschaften

Kulturmanagement und Soziologie d. kult. Feldes

Leipzig

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Das Heinrich Blücher Projekt

The Heinrich Bluecher Project - The Lectures "Sources of Creative Power"

