Wawra Benedikt

Über unbedingte Ansprüche und den Anspruch des Unbedingten. Überlegungen zum Sinn des Ethischen mit Kant und Levinas

Supervisor: Kurt Appel

Abstract (English)

This thesis examines the ethical meaning of human subjectivity in the thought of Immanuel Kant and Emmanuel Levinas. At its center is the question of how an unconditional claim can be conceived that is not external to the human being but is instead grounded within subjectivity itself. While Kant locates the moral law as an expression of pure practical reason within the subject, Levinas understands the unconditional claim as a calling by the Other, encountered by the self in its bodily vulnerability. Both approaches share the conviction that ethical obligation is neither merely a subjective construction nor a metaphysical postulate, but rather an inescapable demand placed upon the individual. The work explores both the differences and the productive points of contact between Kantian morality and Levinasian proximity, and ultimately inquires into the possibility of a universality that does not bypass singularity but becomes visible through it.