

Wittgenstein on Heidegger and cosmic emotions

Mathieu Marion

Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada

Wittgenstein commented briefly on Heidegger in a conversation in 1929 with Schlick and Waismann and in a dictation to the latter for the former in 1932. In this paper, I set forth one minor historical argument against current pragmatist readings that lump together Wittgenstein and Heidegger, an argument which involves reconstructing the context of Wittgenstein's remarks to see their intended point. I thus show that Wittgenstein's remarks were prompted by his having read Heidegger's inaugural lecture 'What is metaphysics?' (1929), and only that text. I argue from it that Wittgenstein never saw himself engaged in the sort of metaphysical enterprise he was engaged into and briefly examine his claims in 1932 that Heidegger needs a therapy analogous to psychoanalysis, and that his speaking 'whereof one should remain silent' amount to a stylistic (hence moral) mistake.