


Kant and Hegel: A comparative study on the notion
of Science and Integral understanding of Reality
with special Reference to the *Critique of Pure
Reason and The Phenomenology of Spirit*



Experts 4 Asia - Erasmus Mundus Program

Department of Philosophy, University of Masaryk
Czech Republic

20th of November 2014



MALLIKA RAJARATNAM

DEPT OF PHILOSOPHY & PSYCHOLOGY

UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

Exchange –Experts 4 Asia Program

November 3rd to December 2nd 2014



Sections of this Presentation

- Objectives of the Research
- Methodology
- *Critique of Pure Reason [1781/1787/]*
- *Phenomenology of Spirit [1807]*

- Prefaces of Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* and Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*
- Critique of Metaphysics and Metaphysics as Real Science
- Hegel's Notion of Scientific Cognition and Absolute Knowing and Absolute Idealism
- Conclusion



Objectives of the Research

- To explore the message and methodology of Immanuel Kant his notion of Science [1724 -1804], Uprooting misjudgments of *Critique of Pure Reason* [1781, 1787]
- To compare Kant's notion of Metaphysics as Science with Hegel's Philosophical Intention
- Exploring Kant's meaning of integral method as way to *Phenomenology*
- Exploring Kantian influence on Hegel
- Exploring Hegel's Original Contribution



Methodology

- Integral Phenomenological Hermeneutic Methodology is being used
- Primary sources are analyzed with special reference to the *Critique of Pure Reason* and *Prolegomena and Phenomenology of Spirit*
- Critical evaluation of secondary sources on Immanuel Kant and Hegel
- Exploring the Kantian roots in Hegel's Philosophy / Kant's Philosophical Intention

Kant's major critical writings

Critical Period of
Kant
Integral Approach
Critique of Reason
& his Writings

*Critique
of Pure Reason*
1781, 1787
Critique of
Metaphysics
Prolegomena-1783

*Critique of
Practical Reason*
1788
Critique of
Theoretical Reason

Critique of Judgment
1790, 1793
Critique of
Theoretical
Aesthetics
Theory and Practice



Immanuel Kant's other writings

- *The Foundations of Metaphysical Morals*
- *Prolegomena [1783]*
- *Metaphysical Foundations of Natural Sciences [1786]*
- *What is Enlightenment*
- *Metaphysics Morals*
- *Pragmatic point of Anthropology*
- *Towards Perpetual Peace*
- *Universal History*



Message and Methodology of First Critique - *The Critique of pure Reason*

- Exploring the Nature of Reason and different levels of Reason
- Self - Understanding of Reason and Reflexivity
- Reconciliation of Empiricism and Rationalism
- The Transcendental Dialectics/Antinomies
- Integral Methodology




Kant's Philosophical Structure and questions on Sciences

- How is Mathematics Possible?
- How is Natural Science Possible?
- How is Metaphysics as Possible in General?
- How is Metaphysics will come forth as Real Science?



Kant's Integral Understanding of Reality

- Immanuel Kant refuted the conceptual Metaphysics as Idealism and groundless pretension
- Kant's critical Idealism and Transcendental Idealism Transcends narrow Rationalism
- Kant's Dialectics as Critique of Theoretical metaphysics and giving the suggestive meaning for integral complete understanding.



Problems of Metaphysics in General- Conflicts of Conceptual Metaphysics.

- Conceptual metaphysics as Illusion
- Dogmatic metaphysics as pseudo science and pretention
- Traditional metaphysics refuted in dialectics
- Metaphysics cannot be known as so called science
- Metaphysics will come forth as Real Science



Kant's *Prolegomena* and Metaphysics and Real Science

- Exploring metaphysics as Real Science/
Science of Sciences/ Science of Being
- Kant's new meaning of Metaphysics
- Kant as the base for Analytic Philosophy
and Continental Philosophy
- Kantian Integral Approach should be
understood in its proper sense



Kantian Message and Methodology

- Kant's *First Critique and Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics as Real Science*
- Methodological Study for his later writings on Science and Ethics
- *Metaphysical Foundations of Natural Sciences* [1786]and
- *Metaphysical Morals* [1789]
- Kantian integral Approach *and* criticism
- *New Methodology for Critical and Creative innovations in Social Sciences and Sciences*



Transcendental Dialectics- The Antinomy of Pure Reason

- The Antinomies of Pure reason Plays an important role in Kant's Critical Philosophy and its Methodology.
- It overturns the whole of Western Logic, Metaphysics and the Epistemology ..
- Kant's intention in this Dialectical arguments leads to a new innovations in Epistemology, Logic and Metaphysics



Kant's Influence on Hegel

- Kant tries to introduce an integral Methodology for Philosophy , Ethics and Sciences – through metaphysics as Real Science – overturns the Traditional Approach.
- Hegel's Philosophy in some sense Completes Kant's Critical Project –Philosophy as whole..



Kant's Influence on Hegel

- The transcendental dialectics Introduces the new form of arguments which can lead to the suggestive and hermeneutic message of integral understanding of Reality.
- In my view, Hegel's Preface to the *Phenomenology of Spirit* has issues to complete Kant's Philosophical Revolution.



Hegel's Preface on Scientific Cognition

- ‘The Element of True is the Notion and its true Shape is Scientific System’
- ‘The state of spiritual culture at the present time’
- ‘The principle of Science is not the completion of Science’ : objections to formalism.’



Preface-on Scientific Cognition

- The Absolute is Subject
- The element of Knowledge
- The elevation of consciousness into that element of Phenomenology of Spirit
- The Transformation of Picture Thoughts
- And these into notions
- Historical and Mathematical Truth



Preface –on Scientific Cognition

- The Nature of Philosophical Truth/Method
- Objections of to schematizing Formalism
- Requirement of study of Philosophy
- Philosophizing by the light of Nature
- Sound commonsense
- Inspiration of genius and conclusion of Preface
- Hegel spoke of spiritual alienation of culture



‘Hegel reveal himself as disciple of Kantian Philosophy’

- In a letter to Schelling April 1795 [a disciple of quoted by Ludwig Siep - 2014]
- **‘Hegel reveals himself to be Kantian Philosophy- particularly the religious and moral Philosophy –who fully expects the continued development of Kant’s thought to lead a radical reversal [a revolution] in religious and political relations in Germany’**

Kant's Critique of dogmatic metaphysics and of dogmatic epistemology and of logic

- Kant's Copernican revolution in philosophy and epistemology not only the reconciliation of so-called Rationalism and Empiricism but the Self Understanding or the **Reflexive Understanding** of Reality.
- Kant's immense contribution towards innovative **metaphysical, epistemological** and **logical** advancement is influential in Hegel, for his new developments in these fields



Hegel's Philosophy and his writings

- Hegel [1770-1831] is one of the important and most influential philosophers of the Western Philosophy
- Phenomenology of Spirit [1807] is the base book for entire philosophical system.
- 'In the rightfully famous preface, Hegel lays out the principles that define the rest of his work and so much Philosophy to Follow.'



Hegel's other writings

- *The Science of Logic [1812- 16]*
- *Encyclopedia of the Philosophical sciences [1817]*
- *Philosophy of Nature [1817]*
- *Lectures on Aesthetics [1817]*
- *Philosophy of Right [1820]*
- *Later Versions on Subjective Spirit [1830]*
- *Objective Spirit [1830] Shorter Logic 1830*



Hegel's continuation of Kant

- Establishing Philosophy as Whole
- Philosophy as Real Science/Scientific Cognition
- Going Beyond the Dogmatic Metaphysics
- Consciousness and Self-Consciousness
- Taking Logic Beyond Pure Reason..
- Explaining the doctrine of Notion Taking Dialectics to The Higher Reason



Kant's all three Critiques

Contribute to Hegel's Philosophy

- Hegel's Sections on Ethical order Morality
- Have the Kantian influence but Hegel interprets in his own way to suit entire conception of Philosophy
- The notion of Subjective Universality in Kant's Third Critique is deals with Judgment and inter-subjectivity
- Hegel's Philosophy integrates all these issues in the Self- Conscious level

Original Contribution Hegel, Hegel Transcends Kant and the Hegel's Critique on Kant

- What is New in Hegel.. in the *Phenomenology*? What is Hegel's Critique on Kant?
- Though in *Phenomenology* especially in the preface.. There are direct continuation of Kant e.g. 'The Principles of Science is not the Completion of Science' Objections for formalism' Exactly explores Kant's Introduction on 'In all theoretical Sciences A priori Synthetic Principles are contained

Hegel goes beyond Kant to explore Reason in a different level

- ‘Human reason has this peculiar fate that in one species of its knowledge it is burdened by questions which, as pre-scribed by the very nature of reason itself, it is not able to ignore, but which, as transcending all its powers, it is also not able to answer.’
Kant’s Preface to the First Edition[CPR]
- Hegel goes beyond taking Reason in Higher level



Anti thesis of Individual

- Individual Universal and negative Unity
- Tranquil Unity
- For Tranquil Unity ,Movement is the Other
- The Tranquil Unity is the Other..
- Hegel makes the original contribution in these Notions
- The Individual and Universal



Hegel's view on Kant's Unity of Apperception

- Hegel Says “ The Unity of Apperception is also equally a thing.. Thing in itself, It still remains a principle the same, i.e. extraneous to that Unity”- Section 238
- “This Idealism is involved in this contradiction because it asserts the abstract notion to be True..”- This Hegel's version of Kant is his understanding of Kant.



Hegel's views on Notion

- Notion displays itself in the form of thinghood and sensuous being for Hegel.
- “Notion of Sea does not imply the structure of Fish, or the notion of Air does not imply the structure of Birds”
- The organic substance as the inner, is the simple, Unitary soul, the Pure Notion of End or the Universal



Actualization of rational thought and its own activity

- Individuality takes itself to be real and for itself
- Reason as Law giver
- Reason as testing Laws
- “ Kant’s second *Critique* says ‘Act in such a way the maxim of your action can be willed as universal law of Humanity’
- ‘Starry heaven and moral laws’



For Hegel- Absolute is Subject

- Consciousness , Self- Consciousness and Reason are the issues reveal Hegel's important original Contributions
- Observes organic and Inorganic and he speaks of teleology of inner and outer and
- The observation of Self – Consciousness its relation to external actuality and immediate actuality.



For Hegel Reason is Spirit

- “ Reason Spirit when its Certainty of Being all reality has been raised to Truth, and it is conscious of itself as its own world, and of the world as itself. The Coming- to- be spirit was indicated in the immediately preceding movement in which the object of consciousness, the Pure category, rose to be the Notion of Reason” 438 Phenomenology of Spirit



Real is Reason and Reason is Real. Objectivity of Reason

- Hegel used the Dialectical Method beyond the Epistemological level and bringing into reality for subjectivity and objectivity
- This Higher form of Dialectics deals with Spirituality, Culture, History Art , Religion and Philosophy..
- Philosophical understanding is the Absolute knowing in the Dialectics as Higher Form of Reason



Difference between Kant and Hegel

- Kant's suggested Metaphysics as Science but Hegel spoke about the Totality of Reality as Science
- Kant showed the Dialectics to refute so – called reason and Pure Reason, Hegel used the Dialectics for the Higher Reason
- Reason is Spiritual For Hegel , the Reason and Dialectics integral form to express the Totality of objective and subjective world



Conclusion

- Though Kant's Influence is significant on Hegel's Phenomenology Hegel's original contribution towards the notion of Reason and Dialectics is Remarkable.
- Hegel's contribution towards Dialectics , Nature of Higher Reason, Culture, History , Religion, Spirituality, Art and Aesthetics influence the subsequent Philosophers and the Philosophical movements of the West.



Selected Bibliography

- Immanuel Kant [1781, 1787]
Critique of Pure Reason, Td by Norman Kemp Smith [1964] Mcmillan and co Ltd London
- _____ [1783]
Prolegomena To Any Future Metaphysics, Td by Lewis White Beck[1950], Liberal Arts Press, USA
- _____ [1786]
Metaphysical Foundation Of Natural Science Td by Ernest Belfort Bax [1891]George Bell and Sons, London
- *G.W.F Hegel Phenomenology of Spirit td by A.V Miller, Oxford University Press Oxford. 1977*
- Ed, Paul Guyer [1994]
The Cambridge Companion to Kant,