Abstract

There is an interesting overlap between Heidegger and Nishida that has not gained attention in the literature. During the late 1920s, both philosophers looked to transcendental philosophy as a way to overcome the Western metaphysical tradition. Neither philosopher, however, simply accepted traditional forms of transcendental philosophy. Rather, both attempted to transform it from within. In this work, I aim to articulate the extent to which Heidegger and Nishida still worked within a traditional transcendental framework and also the ways in which they attempt to transform transcendental philosophy. I argue that while Heidegger's "hermeneutic" and Nishida's "chorological" (I employ this term from Plato's chōra) transformations have much in common, the latter is more radical than the former. Specifically, Nishida reveals the prereflective origin of transcendental reflection not in the pre-ontological understanding of Dasein but in the non-reflective experience completely devoid of the subject-object split: the selfless experience of absolute nothingness.