

Thomas Dworschak

Two Levels of the Nature of Rational Life

Short abstract for *The Unity of Normativity*

Transformative theories of human nature argue that human life is essentially pervaded by reason. Therefore, normativity in human life is essentially rational, and seemingly natural factors – such as affects, emotions, or drives – cannot claim to be independent sources of normativity. Their normative status derives from the role they play in an essentially rational form of life. I argue that this type of theory does not allow us to understand sufficiently the way in which ‘irrational’ forces compel our actions. Either it denies their force or it tends to underestimate the conflict between them and rational reflection. My point is that transformative theories still lack an adequate picture of human nature that makes sense of such conflicts. Such a picture should include the thought that rationality can come to be only with an ‘irrational’ flip side, which can be described as the forces of a kind of nature only a rational being can have – thus being quite different from the classical idea that it is our ‘animal nature’ which is in perpetual conflict with reason.

Short biography

Thomas Dworschak, MA (Magister) in 2009 in Indian studies, Cultural studies and philosophy, University of Leipzig. PhD in philosophy in 2015, University of Leipzig. PhD thesis: *Hörbarer Sinn. Philosophische Zugänge zu Grundbegriffen der Musik* (Freiburg / München: Alber, 2017).

2014–2018: research associate at the Department of Education and Philosophy, German Sports University Cologne. Since October 2018: lecturer (Lehrkraft für besondere Aufgaben) at the Department of Philosophy, University of Leipzig.