

Tetsuaki Iwamoto

Self, History and Future

A work on the modality of history

VERNON SERIES IN PHILOSOPHY

Summary

Be it Foucault's insight into a society based on 'power-knowledge' or Fukuyama's attempts to predict the future based on the end-game situation of 'liberal democracy', both are like trying to work out a curvature of a line from a given point by using pre-calculus maths. No amount of elaborate narratives based on a quasi-dynamic, phenomenological concept like 'discourses' or a static concept like 'liberal democracy' will capture the dynamism of moving events and their fluid directions called 'future'. You need the methodology of operative concepts that process moving events.

My essay is based on a holistic and dynamic concept with logical progressions. Instead of capturing movements as a still picture I try to record constantly changing situations in terms of modality of history. It is the necessity of tangencies and encompassments for Circles of Identity (CI) that forms history. The momentum of 'self' that bridges the past and the future is the propellant of CIs, which follows certain rules to suggest our destiny.

About the author

The author has a philosophical antipathy towards labeling himself, having been interested in the philosophy of language at some point. However, humoring the publisher's request he says the following: attending a few universities he met two of Wittgenstein's disciples as his teachers and was astounded by their narrow-mindedness, which you all too often see in rudimentary academics. Philosophy, if anything, should make people humble and open-minded, teaching us how little we really know. Thus disappointed with the encounters he gave up PhD and instead decided to write up his own ideas, which culminated in 'The Elementals' - now enjoying some popularity on Philpapers.org. After the abandonment of philosophy and following the example of Thales he became an investment banker, working variously as banking analyst, investment manager, head of research, etc and is personally acquainted with some of the culprits who were directly involved with the Financial Crisis of 2007-08 (and its sister event, the Nordic Crisis 91-92), which earned him some insights into the workings of organizations and people who manage them.



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