Jacob Dahl Rendtorff

French Philosophy and Social Theory

A Perspective for Ethics and Philosophy of Management

Springer
## Contents

1. **Introduction** .......................................................... 1

2. **Business Ethics and Early Modern French Philosophy**  
   at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century ................. 11
   2.1 Henri Bergson: Living Presence and Creative Evolution .... 13
   2.2 Creative Evolution, Moral and Religious Development .... 17
   2.3 Bergson, Business Ethics, and Philosophy of Management .. 21
   2.4 Emile Durkheim: Solidarity and the Institutionalization  
      of Freedom ......................................................... 22
   2.5 Durkheim and the Institutionalization  
      of the Moral Economy ............................................. 28
   2.6 From Durkheim to Marcel Mauss (Collège de Sociologie) ... 31
   2.7 The Gift in Modern Society, Economics, and Business ...... 34
   2.8 Introducing Hegel in French Social Philosophy:  
      Alexandre Kojève .................................................. 36
   2.9 Georges Bataille: Hegelianism and Economy of the Gift ..... 41

3. **Personalism and Existentialism: Their View on Business Ethics,**  
   **Organizations, and Institutions** ................................. 45
   3.1 Personalist Existentialism and Political Economy ............ 46
   3.2 Existentialism: Jean-Paul Sartre’s Freedom  
      and Contingency ................................................... 50
   3.3 Simone de Beauvoir, Ethics, and the Second Sex ............. 62
   3.4 Existentialism and Economics: Christian Arnaud ... 70

4. **The Phenomenological Tradition: Experience, Body and Ethics**  
   4.1 Maurice Merleau-Ponty: Body and Perception ................. 78
   4.2 Emmanuel Levinas: Phenomenology and the Ethics  
      of the Other ....................................................... 87
5 Marxism in French Philosophy: From Existence to Structure and Beyond ........................................ 99
5.1 Maurice Merleau-Ponty: The Ambiguity of Dialectics .......... 102
5.2 Jean-Paul Sartre: Circularity of Dialectics .................. 105
5.3 Althusser and Marxist Structuralism as Theoretical Anti-humanism ........................................ 112
5.4 Rancière, Balibar, and Badiou: Marxism Today .............. 118
6 Structuralism, Structural Anthropology, and Social Theory ...... 121
6.1 Structure and Language as a System of Signs ................. 125
6.2 Claude Lévi-Strauss and Structural Anthropology .......... 128
6.3 Structuralism and Contemporary Society: Roland Barthes .... 133
6.4 Jacques Lacan and the Freudian Turn of Structuralism ...... 137
6.5 Structuralism, Ethics, and Organizational Analysis .......... 144
7 Poststructuralism, Organizational Analysis, and Business Ethics .. 149
7.1 Michel Foucault: Power, Subjectivation, and Governmentality ........................................ 149
7.2 Structures of Power in Modern Society ...................... 153
7.3 Archeology and Genealogy of Power ........................ 156
7.4 Ethics Beyond Biopower? ................................... 160
7.5 Gilles Deleuze (and Felix Guattari): Capitalism, Desire and Control Society ............................... 166
7.6 Deleuze as a Classical Philosopher .......................... 168
7.7 Criticism of Psychoanalysis and Social Theory ............. 171
7.8 Deleuze and the Arts ....................................... 176
7.9 Jacques Derrida: Deconstruction of CSR and Business Ethics ........................................ 178
7.10 Deconstruction of the Political Community of Organizations .... 183
7.11 Justice and Responsibility in Deconstruction ............... 187
7.12 Deconstruction and Complexity: Thinking in Business Ethics ........................................ 190
7.13 Jean-Luc Nancy and the Continuation of Derrida’s Project ... 193
8 Beyond Poststructuralism: The Critical Hermeneutical Philosophy of Paul Ricoeur ............................ 199
8.1 The Ethical Foundations of Organizational Deliberation .... 203
8.2 Ethical Life and Judgment in Organizations ................ 209
9 The Tradition of Political Philosophy: From Raymond Aron and Democratic Institutionalism to Republican Liberalism 219
9.1 Raymond Aron: Defense of Liberal Democracy ............. 220
9.2 Castoriadis and the Concept of Institutions and Institutionalization ........................................ 225
9.3 Castoriadis’s Critique of Bureaucracy ....................... 226
9.4 A New Theory of Democracy ................................ 230
Contents

9.5 Claude Lefort and Marcel Gauchet ........................................... 233
9.6 From Luc Ferry and Alain Renaut: To Liberalism .................. 236
9.7 Consequences of the Liberal Tradition for Business Ethics and Philosophy of Management ........................... 241

10 Poststructuralist Sociology and the New Spirit of Capitalism:
Bourdieu and Boltanski .............................................................. 243
10.1 Pierre Bourdieu: Sociology of Praxis and Intentional Structure ............................................ 244
10.2 Habitus and the Social Structures of the Economy ................ 248
10.3 The Economic Sociology of Late Capitalism: Luc Boltanski ... 252
10.4 Different Orders or Regimes of Worth ................................. 256
10.5 The New Spirit of Capitalism ................................................ 261

11 Postmodernism, Hypermodernism, and Critique of the Spirit of Capitalism .................................................. 267
11.1 Jean-François Lyotard: The Postmodern Condition .............. 268
11.2 Jean Baudrillard: Postmodernism, Seduction, and Simulation ...................................................................... 272
11.3 Gilles Lipovetsky: From Postmodernity to Hypermodernity ... 279
11.4 Bernard Stiegler: Hypermodernism, Pharmacology, and Ars Industrialis ............................................. 288

12 Conclusion and Perspectives: Implications of French Philosophy for Business Ethics and Philosophy of Management ........................................... 299

References .................................................................................. 305