

A Shift in Perspective: The Stylistic Deficit of Philosophy in the Modern Age.
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Abstract

The research I have carried out through the Maurice Price Research Internship explored the question of the importance of style and genre to philosophy. In the essay that this research has culminated in, I begin by briefly examining the works of Berel Lang and Arthur C. Danto on philosophical style. More specifically, I examine their claims that the philosophical style that is dominant today, which has its roots in the analytic tradition and the professionalization of philosophy, is not fundamental to the process of philosophizing. I then analyze the style of representative thinkers of the analytic and continental tradition through the lens of Lang's and Danto's arguments. Russell's *The Problems of Philosophy* is used to illustrate Lang's "expository" mode I argue to be characteristic of the analytic tradition, whereas Nietzsche's *The Gay Science*, Sartre's *What is Literature* and *No Exit*, and Camus' *The Rebel* and *The Fall* are used as examples of what Lang calls the "reflexive" mode of philosophical writing more often encountered in the continental tradition in modern years. My analysis of these works serves to show that the three thinkers from the continental tradition employ a vastly different style from that of Russell in order to address the different philosophical questions that they were asking. On this basis, I argue that the now hegemonic style of professional philosophy is reductive, limits the freedom of the writer, and restricts access to certain kinds of readers. I conclude that broadening our sense of what styles and genres are seen as suitably "philosophical" would open the field to never-before-heard voices, and allow philosophers to grapple with new ideas – or old ideas in new ways - engaging with them with as much rigour, although in a different form, that idealized in the standard academic philosophical paper.