Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline

Title: Hegel's Idealist History of Self Consciousness

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Project abstract:

This research project aims to analyse and evaluate a core component of Hegel's philosophy, the 'Idealist History of Self-Consciousness,' which, despite its great importance for philosophy and the sciences more broadly, remains sorely understudied. This conception aims to provide an answer to an ever-persisting philosophical problem—how can we justify our philosophical and scientific theories without presupposing anything? How can we, for instance, guarantee that the senses provide us with reliable information about the external world, since to claim that what the senses perceive is true fails to account for phenomena that they do not pick up, such as ultraviolet light or sounds that are too high-pitched? If our senses do not show us the full picture, how can we be certain we're understanding the world correctly? This is the problem that Hegel's 'Idealist History of Self-Consciousness' attempts to overcome. It can be understood in the same way as Descartes' famous "I think therefore I am," where both conceptions attempt to present an irrefutable truth about thinking or our consciousness. Consciousness can be understood in this light not only as our senses but also as any means by which we view and engage with the world, such as self-consciousness and our ability to create new ideas. The central point is that only through consciousness can we engage with the world, and thus if we can discover an irrefutable fact about how it functions, we can engage in philosophy and science without presupposing anything. Contrary to Descartes, however, Hegel argues that thinking is not simply an isolated practice but rather the result of an extensive development of not only scientific phenomena such as evolution but also social and historical processes from the emergence of religion to the French Revolution. For Hegel, it is only by understanding this "history," i.e., the 'Idealist History of Self-Consciousness,' that we can fully understand consciousness and thus engage in philosophy and science without presupposing anything.

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Copyright information:

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Hegel's Idealist History of Self Consciousness

General information

Name of applicant and job title:

ORCID Id:
Project number:

Funding programme:

Version of DMP:

Brief description:

Name of applicant and job title:
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Version 1.0 – 4 November 2026.
Brief description:
How do we justify philosophical and scientific theories? Is experience the standard of justification, or is it merely conceptual work? How do we justify the standard of justification itself? Many philosophers have attempted to answer these questions, for instance, by claiming that it is the senses that provide us with such a standard; however, this presupposes their adequacy in providing reliable information about the external world. How, then, do we answer these questions without presuppositions? This research project aims to analyse and evaluate Hegel's answer to these questions, which is showcased through the 'Idealist History of Self-Consciousness,' a seminal methodological conception of Hegel's philosophy, which he terms "the history of the education of consciousness itself to the standpoint of Science" (PhS sec. 78). The 'Idealist History of Self-Consciousness' poses a radical and effective means of overcoming this problem; however, it remains sorely understudied, which is extraordinary since it is the core methodological tool of the Phenomenology of Spirit. This methodological tool presents a step-by-step analysis of the development of epistemic claims that consciousness produces, starting with what is immediate, i.e., sensory perception, to arrive after a considerable development at the highest form of self-consciousness. This is where the measurement and the measured, i.e., "Absolute Knowing." and the standard of justification is justified.

Data description and collection or re-use of existing data

How will new data be collected or produced and/or how will existing data be re-used?

The project does not involve the collection of empirical data. Research will instead be based on textual through conceptual analysis and textual interpretation of key philosophical texts and relevant academic literature. These materials will be accessed primarily through university libraries and academic databases.

What data will be collected or produced?
Add a new line for each dataset. Describe it as well as you can.

The project does not generate conventional empirical datasets. Research materials produced consist primarily of digital research notes, textual annotations, bibliographic records and academic manuscripts. These materials are predominantly textual and stored in standard digital formats (e.g. DOCX and PDF).

Documentation and data quality

What metadata and documentation will accompany the data?

Research materials will be documented through bibliographic references, including author, title, publication details, edition and relevant page numbers, ensuring the traceability and provenance of academic sources. No experimental logbook, sample records or specific metadata standards are required, given the theoretical and textual-based nature of the project.

What data quality control measures will be used?

Data quality will be ensured through the verification of bibliographic references, careful comparison of primary texts and translations, and the accurate recording of quotations and page references. Research materials and written analyses will be regularly reviewed to ensure consistency, accuracy and appropriate source attribution.

Storage and backup during the research process

How will data and metadata be stored and backed up during the research?

Digital research materials, including notes, bibliographic records and academic documents, will be stored on password-protected devices and backed up using the University of Luxembourg's institutional storage facilities. Regular backups will be maintained to minimise the risk of data loss. Access will be restricted to the researcher, and no sensitive personal data are anticipated to be collected or processed. Storage and backup arrangements will follow the University's applicable IT security and data management guidelines.

How will data security and protection of sensitive data be taken care of during the research?

No sensitive or personal data are expected to be processed. Access to research materials will be restricted to the researcher, in accordance with University of Luxembourg IT security policies.

Legal and ethical requirements, codes of conduct

If personal data are processed, how will compliance with legislation on personal data and security be ensured?

The project does not involve the collection or processing of personal data. Consequently, no specific personal data protection measures or consent procedures are required.

How will other legal issues, such as intellectual property rights and ownership, be managed? What legislation is applicable?

The research will make use of published philosophical texts and academic literature, respecting the relevant copyright and licensing conditions. Original research outputs will be managed in accordance with University of Luxembourg policies. All sources will be properly acknowledged and referenced.

What ethical issues and codes of conduct are there, and how will they be considered?

The project does not involve human participants, interviews or the collection of personal data. No significant ethical concerns are therefore anticipated. The research will follow the University of Luxembourg's research integrity guidelines, with particular attention to the accurate representation of sources, appropriate referencing and the avoidance of plagiarism.

Data sharing and long-term preservation

How and when will data be shared? Are there possible restrictions to data sharing or embargo reasons?

As the project does not generate conventional empirical datasets, there are no independent datasets currently intended for public dissemination. Research findings will instead be shared through academic publications, conference presentations and the doctoral thesis. Any relevant research materials will be made available where appropriate, subject to copyright restrictions and the University's policies. The DMP will be updated if the nature of the research or its data-sharing requirements change.

How will data for preservation be selected, and where data will be preserved long-term?

Research materials selected for preservation will primarily include the final dissertation, published articles and relevant research documentation. These will be retained in accordance with University of Luxembourg and FNR preservation requirements, using institutional storage facilities. No independent empirical datasets are anticipated to require separate long-term archiving.

What methods or software tools are needed to access and use data?

Research materials will primarily be accessed using standard software, including PDF readers, word-processing software and bibliographic reference-management tools. No specialised software or technical equipment is required to access or use the materials.

How will the application of a unique and persistent identifier (DOI) to each data set be ensured?

As the project does not generate independent datasets, the assignment of DOIs is not currently anticipated to be necessary. Should any research materials warrant deposit in an institutional or recognised repository, persistent identifiers will be assigned in accordance with the repository's procedures.

Data management responsibilities and resources

Who will be responsible for data management?

The researcher will be responsible for managing and organising research materials, including their documentation, storage, backup and preservation. The DMP will be reviewed and updated regularly throughout the project to reflect any changes in research activities or data management requirements.

What resources will be dedicated to data management and ensuring that data will be FAIR?

No significant additional resources are required for data management, given the predominantly text-based nature of the research. Existing University of Luxembourg storage facilities and standard software will be used to organise, store and preserve research materials. FAIR principles will be supported through appropriate documentation, consistent file organisation and the use of accessible, standard file formats.