

Nuances in the Philosophy of the Cosmomic Idea

Author:

Helena Hoogstad¹

Affiliation:

¹Subject group Philosophy, School of Basic Sciences, North-West University, Vaal Triangle Campus, South Africa

Correspondence to:

Helena Hoogstad

Email:

helena.hoogstad@koers.co.za

Postal address:

PO Box 1174, Vanderbijlpark 1900, South Africa

How to cite this article:

Hoogstad, H., 2014, 'Nuances in the Philosophy of the Cosmomic Idea', *Koers – Bulletin for Christian Scholarship* 79(3), Art. #2196, 2 pages. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4102/koers.v79i3.2196>

Copyright:

© 2014. The Authors. Licensee: AOSIS OpenJournals. This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution License.

Read online:

Scan this QR code with your smart phone or mobile device to read online.

It is a great pleasure to present this special number entitled *Nuances in the Philosophy of the Cosmomic Idea* to our *Koers* readers, the Reformational scholarly community and special science practitioners.

This issue is organised around a perceptive article of the same title in which Marinus Dirk Stafleu comments on Danie Strauss's *Philosophy: Discipline of the disciplines* (see Cameron 2009; Griffioen 2013; Strauss 2009). The latter's stimulating book, published in 2009, further develops and critically updates Herman Dooyeweerd's Philosophy of the Cosmomic Idea (PCI). Stafleu's article highlights some differences between his own, Strauss's and Dooyeweerd's interpretation of the PCI and points to the importance of artefacts and technology in his own exploration of the reformational project.

Following a suggestion by Bruce Wearne, *Koers* invited scholars to respond to Stafleu's article. The replies by Andrew Basden, Maarten Verkerk and Danie Strauss are published here.

Basden, in his article *Understanding artefacts related to human aspects: The case of information technology and systems*, analyses Stafleu's discussion of artefacts that are differentiated by reference to the aspect onto which the technical activity is projected; unfortunately, Stafleu's discussion is restricted to the six pre-human aspects. In response, Basden considers information and communication technology as a kind of artefact directed at the lingual, a human aspect. He further outlines how Dooyeweerd's theory of modal aspects can be used in studying information technology and computer systems, while also mentioning how this study may inform Dooyeweerdian philosophy itself.

Verkerk's contribution as a philosopher-practitioner pays tribute to both Stafleu and Strauss and emphasizes the importance of the availability of Christian philosophical concepts in designing technology. In *The dual challenge of Christian philosophy: How to make philosophical ideas and concepts available for engineers?* he applies philosophy-based tools to engineering practice.

In the fourth and last article of this issue, *Systematic considerations within the philosophy of the Cosmomic Idea*, Danie Strauss shows how many of the apparent differences between himself and Stafleu can be understood to be terminological differences. Strauss emphasises the value of Stafleu's elaboration of particular human skills characterised by different modal aspects.

This issue of *Koers* not only offers Stafleu's many thoughtful insights as it provokes further refined scholarly work, but also intends to honour his significant long-term contribution (refer to Appendix 1) to Christian reflection in both the special sciences and philosophy.

References

- Cameron, A., 2012, 'Book review of: *Philosophical frameworks for understanding information systems*', *Philosophia Reformata* 77, 85–90.
- Griffioen, S., 2012, 'Danie Strauss: Philosophy as discipline of disciplines', *Koers – Bulletin for Christian Scholarship* 77(2), Art. #409, 3 pages. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4102/koers.v77i2.409>
- Strauss, D.F.M., 2009, *Philosophy: Disciplines of the disciplines*, Padeia Press, Grand Rapids.

Appendix 1

Philosophical publications by Marinus Dirk Stafleu

- 1966, 'Quantumfysica en wijsbegeerte der wetsidee', *Philosophia Reformata* 31, 126–156.
- 1968, 'Individualiteit in de fysica', in D.M Bakker *et al.*, *Reflexies, opstellen aangeboden aan Prof. Dr. J.P.A. Mekkes, ter gelegenheid van zijn zeventigste verjaardag*, pp. 287–305 Amsterdam: Buijten en Schipperheijn.
- 1970, 'Analysis of time in modern physics', *Philosophia Reformata* 35, 1–24; 119–131.
- 1972, 'Metric and measurement in physics', *Philosophia Reformata* 37, 42–57.
- 1978, 'The mathematical and technical opening up of a field of science', *Philosophia Reformata* 43, 18–37.
- 1979, 'The isolation of a field of science', *Philosophia Reformata* 44, 1–15.
- 1980, 'The opening up of a field of science by abstraction and synthesis', *Philosophia Reformata* 45, 47–76.
- 1980, *Time and again, A systematic analysis of the foundations of physics*, Wedge/Sacum, Bloemfontein/ Toronto.
- 1981–1982, 'Theories as logically qualified artefacts', *Philosophia Reformata* 46, 164–189; 47, 20–40.
- 1983–1984, 'Kritische studie: Popper's Postscript', *Philosophia Reformata* 48, 50–65; 49, 71–91.
- 1984, 'The kind of motion we call heat', *Tydskrif vir Christelike wetenskap* 20, 1–43.
- 1985, 'Spatial things and kinematic events (On the reality of mathematically qualified structures of individuality)', *Philosophia Reformata* 50, 9–20.
- 1986, 'Some problems of time - some facts of life', *Philosophia Reformata* 51, 67–82.
- 1987, *Theories at work, On the structure and functioning of theories in science, in particular during the Copernican revolution*, Lanham, University Press of America, New York/London.
- 1988, 'Criteria for a law sphere (with special emphasis on the 'psychic' modal aspect)', *Philosophia Reformata* 53, 171–186.
- 1989, *De verborgen structuur, Wijsgerige beschouwingen over natuurlijke structuren en hun samenhang*, Buijten en Schipperheijn, Amsterdam.
- 1991, 'Being human in the cosmos', *Philosophia Reformata* 56, 101–131.
- 1992, *En toch beweegt zij, Geschiedenis van de natuurkunde van Pythagoras tot Newton*, Boom, Meppel *etc.*
- 1994, 'De structuur der materie in de wijsbegeerte van de wetsidee', in H.G. Geertsema *et al.* (eds.), *Herman Dooyeweerd 1894–1977, Breedte en actualiteit van zijn filosofie*, pp. 114–142, Kok, Kampen.
- 1995, 'The cosmochronological idea in natural science', in S. Griffioen, B.M. Balk (eds.), *Christian philosophy at the close of the twentieth century*, pp. 93–111, Kok, Kampen.
- 1995, 'Modelvorming als heuristisch instrument in het wetenschappelijke ontsluitingsproces', *Philosophia Reformata* 60, 1–15.
- 1996, 'Filosofie van de natuurwetenschap', in R. van Woudenberg (red.), *Kennis en werkelijkheid*, pp. 177–202, Buijten en Schipperheijn, Amsterdam.
- 1997, 'Comments on anticipations', *Philosophia Reformata* 62, 129–144.
- 1998, *Experimentele filosofie, Geschiedenis van de natuurkunde vanuit een wijsgerig perspectief*, Buijten en Schipperheijn, Amsterdam.
- 1999, 'The idea of natural law', *Philosophia Reformata* 64, 88–104.
- 2000, 'The idiom of natural kinds and the biological concept of a species', *Philosophia Reformata* 65, 154–169.
- 2002, *Een wereld vol relaties, Karakter en zin van natuurlijke dingen en processen*, Buijten en Schipperheijn, Amsterdam. (translation: Stafleu 2006, part IV; Stafleu 2010).
- 2002, 'Evolution, history and the individual character of a person', *Philosophia Reformata* 67, 3–18.
- 2003, 'On aesthetically qualified characters and their mutual interlacements', *Philosophia Reformata* 68, 137–147.
- 2004, 'On the character of social communities, the state and the public domain', *Philosophia Reformata* 69, 125–139.
- 2005, 'The relation frame of keeping company. Reply to Andrew Basden', *Philosophia Reformata* 70, 151–164.
- 2006, 'Infinity and continuity', *Tydskrif vir Christelike Wetenskap*, 163–174.
- 2006, *Relations and characters in Protestant philosophy*, from <http://www.freewebs.com/stafleu>
- 2007, 'Philosophical ethics and the so-called ethical aspect', *Philosophia Reformata* 72, 21–33.
- 2008, 'Isaac Newtons Philosophiae naturalis principia mathematica', *Radix* 34, 39–53.
- 2008, 'Time and history in the Philosophy of the Cosmomic Idea', *Philosophia Reformata* 73, 154–169.
- 2010, *A world full of relations*, from <http://www.scibd.com/doc/29057727> (pdf, translation of Stafleu 2002a).
- 2011, 'Bestaan driehoeken en cirkels echt?', *Sophie* 1(4), 44–47.
- 2011, *Chronos & Clio, De tijd in de geschiedenis*, Buijten en Schipperheijn, Amsterdam.
- 2014, 'Nuances in the Philosophy of the Cosmomic Idea', *Koers – Bulletin for Christian Scholarship* 79(3), Art. #423, 8 pages. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4102/koers.v79i3.423>
- 2015, *Acts, artefacts, and associations, A Christian social philosophy of ethics, history, and policy*, to be published.
- 2015, *Theory and experiment, Christian philosophy of science in a historical context*, to be published.