

The I questioned “Subject Matters”

The I questioned, by Augusto Ponzio with responses from 8 of the world’s major Levinas scholars.

To mark the centenary of the birth of Emmanuel Levinas, this issue of Subject Matters is dedicated to a thinker who contributed so much to the theory of the subject and whose work in general has been so influential. Levinas, impact on so-called Continental philosophy, and its Anglo-American constituencies is immeasurable. His thinking on subjectivity has informed other areas, too, such as psychoanalysis. Yet, the regions where Levinasian thought might be most appositely deployed, in politics and communications, have not yet embraced the possibilities that Levinas offers.

Subject Matters has therefore published a major essay on Levinas, **The I questioned**, by Augusto Ponzio along with responses from 8 of the world’s major Levinas scholars.

Ponzio himself, of course, is a major figure on the international academic scene, being a renowned authority on Bakhtin (and the Bakhtin School), Schaff, Sebeok and semiotics. Full Professor of Philosophy of Language and General Linguistics and Head of the Department of Linguistic Practices and Text Analysis at Bari University, Italy, he has published over 70 books, 300 essays, and 50 translations and introductions (from Aristophanes to Volodimirov). A fair number of these have been co-authored with his collaborator, the formidable scholar, Susan Petrilli; most recently, they have published a major (600+ pages) treatise entitled *Semiotics Unbounded* (2005).

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