

Vocabulaire européen des philosophies : Dictionnaire des intraduisibles
[*European Philosophical Vocabulary: Dictionary of Untranslatable Terms*]

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The dictionary is over 1500 pages long and contains 400 entries, many of which are as long as 4000 words. It is the work of a 150 people strong international scientific team of philosophers and linguists. Philosophical terms and expressions from the following languages are considered: Hebrew, Greek, Arab, Latin, German, English, Spanish, French, Italian, Russian. Terms from other languages (Basque, Hungarian, Dutch, Finnish, Romanian, Polish, Swedish, Ukrainian, Norwegian) appear occasionally. The dictionary is entirely written in French.

The book strives to create a counterweight towards “global English” in the realm of the humanities and of philosophy in particular. Another purpose is to provide clarification of certain concepts that seem to be identical on an abstract level (that is, as *concepts*) but which have different cultural functions and flavorings – and therefore also different meanings – as *words*. There are thus not only entries on philosophical terms that exist only in one language (like Hegel’s ‘Aufhebung’) but words whose meaning is similar, though not entirely identical. In this sense, many of the entries read like full-fledged essays in comparative philosophy. At the beginning of each entry, parallel words in different languages are listed; then the respective suitability of those words will be discussed. For example, for the Hebrew word ‘torah’ the dictionary indicates:

Greek: Nomos

Latin: Lex

German: Gesetz

English: Law

The entries are particularly rich when it comes to the historical references of terms: the Greek, Latin or vernacular history is explained by fully considering the philosophical scope of the term.

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