Concerning the Destination of the Human Being

Paolo Livieri
Department of Conscitive Sciences, Università di Messina
Research Associate, Trinity College, University of Toronto

Public Lecture hosted by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
University of Toronto
9 April 2026

COSPECS
DIPARTIMENTO di SCIENZE COGNITIVE, PSICOLOGICHE, PEDAGOGICHE E STUDI CULTURALI

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO SCARBOROUGH
Institute for Environment, Conservation and Sustainability

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SDGs Sustainable Development Goals

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Concerning the "Destination of the Human Being"

…in a moment of crisis

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Overview

- 📌 European efforts at defining and solving a crisis

Overview

- European efforts at defining and solving a crisis
- Quality of the efforts

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- Quality of the efforts
- General profile of the efforts and Alternatives

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Projects on Sustainability

European Union Investments in Sustainability Projects[1]:

🌱 *Next GenerationEU*

[1] Commission Communication on the Sustainable Europe Investment Plan.

Projects on Sustainability

European Union Investments in Sustainability Projects[1]:

- *Next GenerationEU*
- *Next GenerationEU Bonds*

[1] Commission Communication on the Sustainable Europe Investment Plan.

Projects on Sustainability

European Union Investments in Sustainability Projects[1]:

- *Next GenerationEU*
- *Next GenerationEU Bonds*
- *Sustainable Finance*

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Projects on Sustainability

European Union Investments in Sustainability Projects[1]:

- *Next GenerationEU*
- *Next GenerationEU Bonds*
- *Sustainable Finance*
- *Just Transition Mechanism*

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- *Just Transition Mechanism*
- *Green Transition Reform Support*

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Projects on Sustainability

European Union Investments in Sustainability Projects[1]:

- *Next GenerationEU*
- *Next GenerationEU Bonds*
- *Sustainable Finance*
- *Just Transition Mechanism*
- *Green Transition Reform Support*

"To achieve the goals set by the European Green Deal, the Commission has pledged to mobilise at least €**1 trillion** in **sustainable investments** over the next decade" (2021-2030).

[1] Commission Communication on the Sustainable Europe Investment Plan.

Different Funding Targets:

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)[1]

€386–387 billion for **2021–2027**

A total of €386.6 billion is available for the CAP from the EU budget (2021-2027).
Two funds (’pillars’):
•European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF),
•European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

[1] European Commission: Report on the CAP Allocations 2021-2027. [it amounts to one-third of the entire EU budget]

Education

- Focus
  - How the state of *Crisis* affects Higher Education

Education

- Focus
  - How the state of *Crisis* affects Higher Education
    - ~~Programs~~

Education

- Focus
  - How the state of *Crisis* affects Higher Education
    - ~~Programs~~
    - Job Opportunities for Early Career Scholars (future intellectuals in the Humanities)

Job Opportunities for:
Senior faculty, Junior faculty, Postdoc*

Metaphysics and Epistemology	84 ads

*Resources: Phil Job JSP, Academic Positions, Higher Ed Jobs. Over a period of 3 years

Job Opportunities for: Senior faculty, Junior faculty, Postdoc*	
Metaphysics and Epistemology	84 ads
Philosophy of Language	67 ads

*Resources: Phil Job JSP, Academic Positions, Higher Ed Jobs. Over a period of 3 years

Job Opportunities for: Senior faculty, Junior faculty, Postdoc*	
Metaphysics and Epistemology	84 ads
Philosophy of Language	67 ads
Ethics/Value Theories	130 ads

*Resources: Phil Job JSP, Academic Positions, Higher Ed Jobs. Over a period of 3 years

Funded Projects in the Horizon 2020 EU Program

(2025)

philosophy of language	5

Funded Projects in the Horizon 2020 EU Program

(2025)

philosophy of language	5
ancient philosophy	5

Funded Projects in the Horizon 2020 EU Program

(2025)

philosophy of language	5
ancient philosophy	5
ethical principles, ethical theories, ethics (Theory)	18

Funded Projects in the Horizon 2020 EU Program

(2025)

philosophy of language	5
ancient philosophy	5
ethical principles, ethical theories, ethics (Theory)	18
ethical principles/ethical theories/ethics (Theory), social inequality, social issues	184

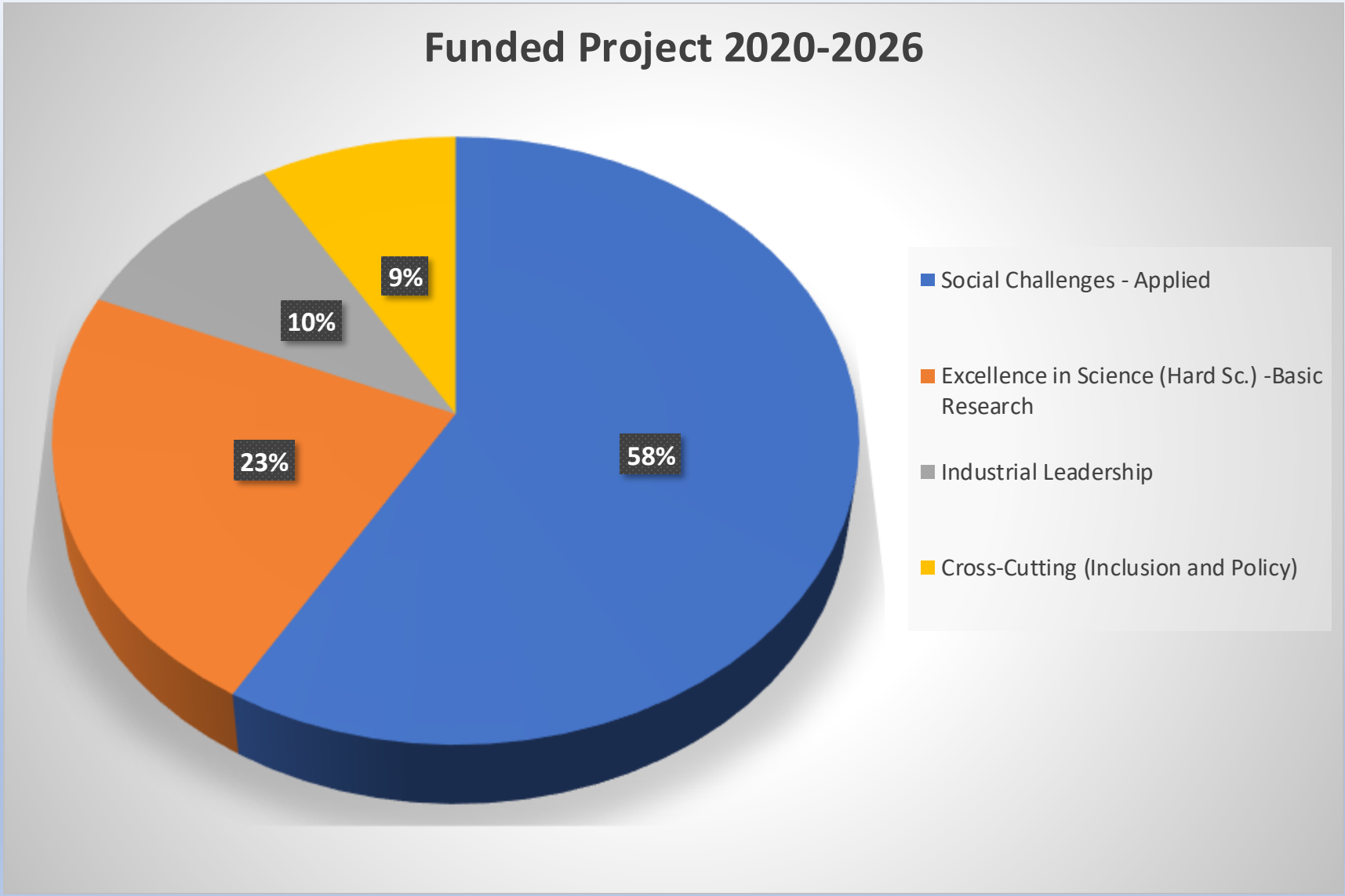
Funded Projects in the Horizon 2020 EU Program*

ethical principles, ethical theories, ethics, social inequality, social issues, social sciences	5,092
Def.ed by the EU Commission: Social sciences as a study of the regulation of economical/sociological aspects of human life (including peace and conflict studies, human rights studies)	

*Source: CORDIS – EU Research Results. Over the last 6 years

Funded Projects in the Horizon 2020 EU Program*	
ethical principles, ethical theories, ethics, social inequality, social issues, social sciences	5,092
Number of Funded Projects	35,000

*Source: CORDIS – EU Research Results. Over the last 6 years

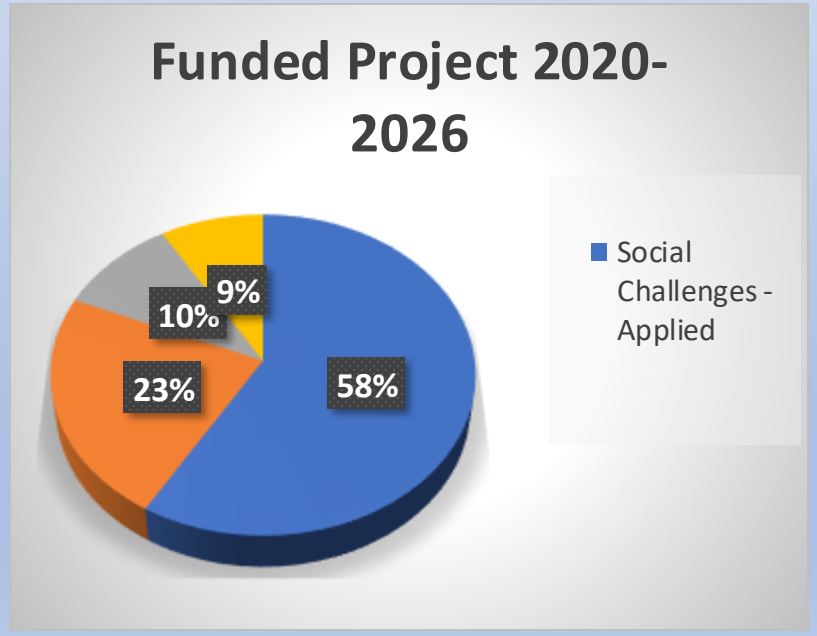

Funded Project 2020-2026
9%
10%
23%
58%
Social Challenges - Applied
Excellence in Science (Hard Sc.) -Basic Research
Industrial Leadership
Cross-Cutting (Inclusion and Policy)

Education

EU operates **major centralized programmes and bodies in education**

They support master's, PhD, and postdoc-level training across Europe:

- Horizon Europe,
- European Research Council (ERC),
- Erasmus+,
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)



Education

The Relevance of

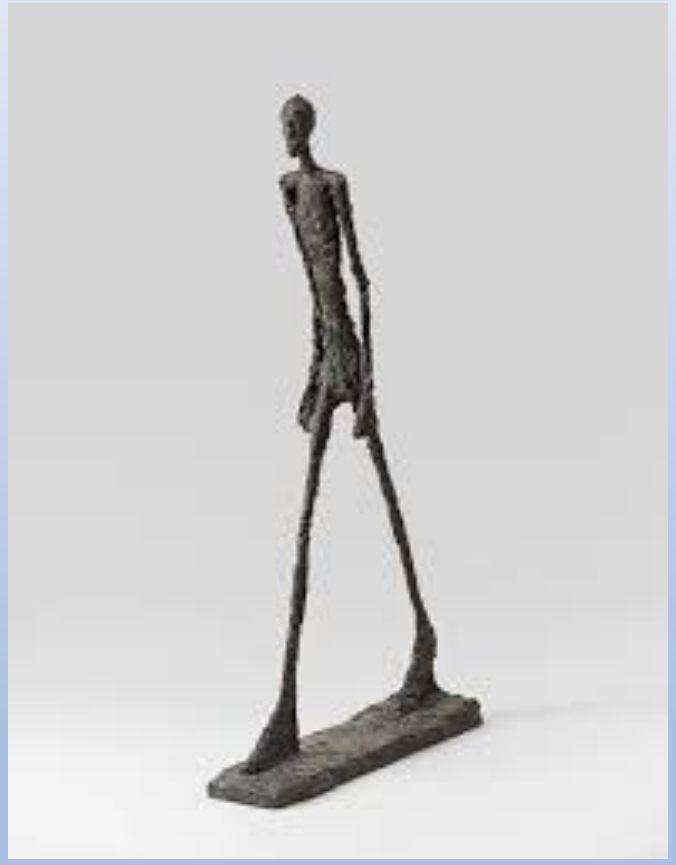
Ethics

T. Crali, *Città Futurista*, 1939

Education

The practical orientation of our questions:

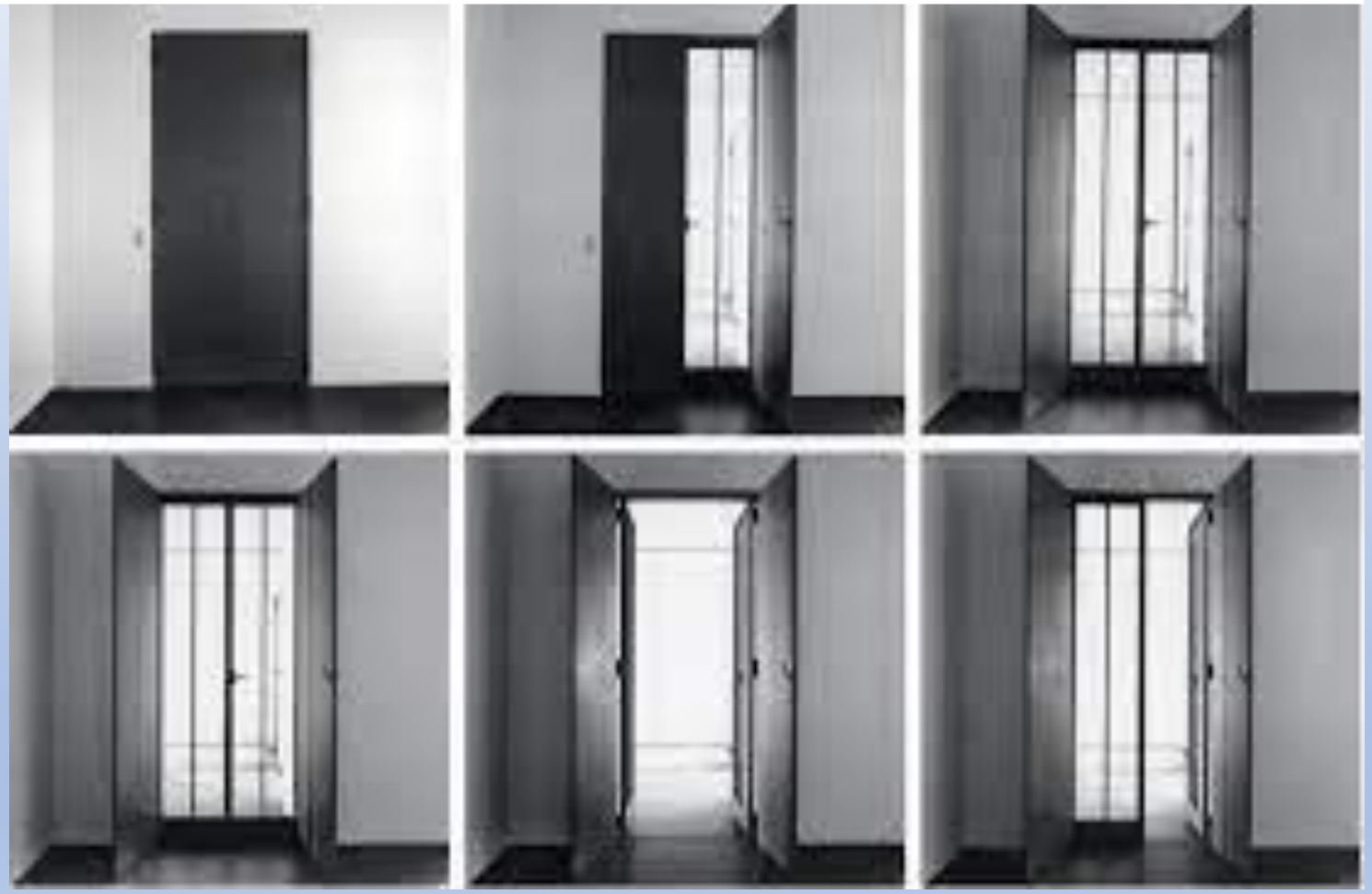
"*what should I do?*"



A. Giacometti, *Homme qui marche I, 1960*

Positions

Ian Angus:
«Instrumental reason is limited to the calculation of efficient means and cannot determine the ends to which those means are directed»[1].



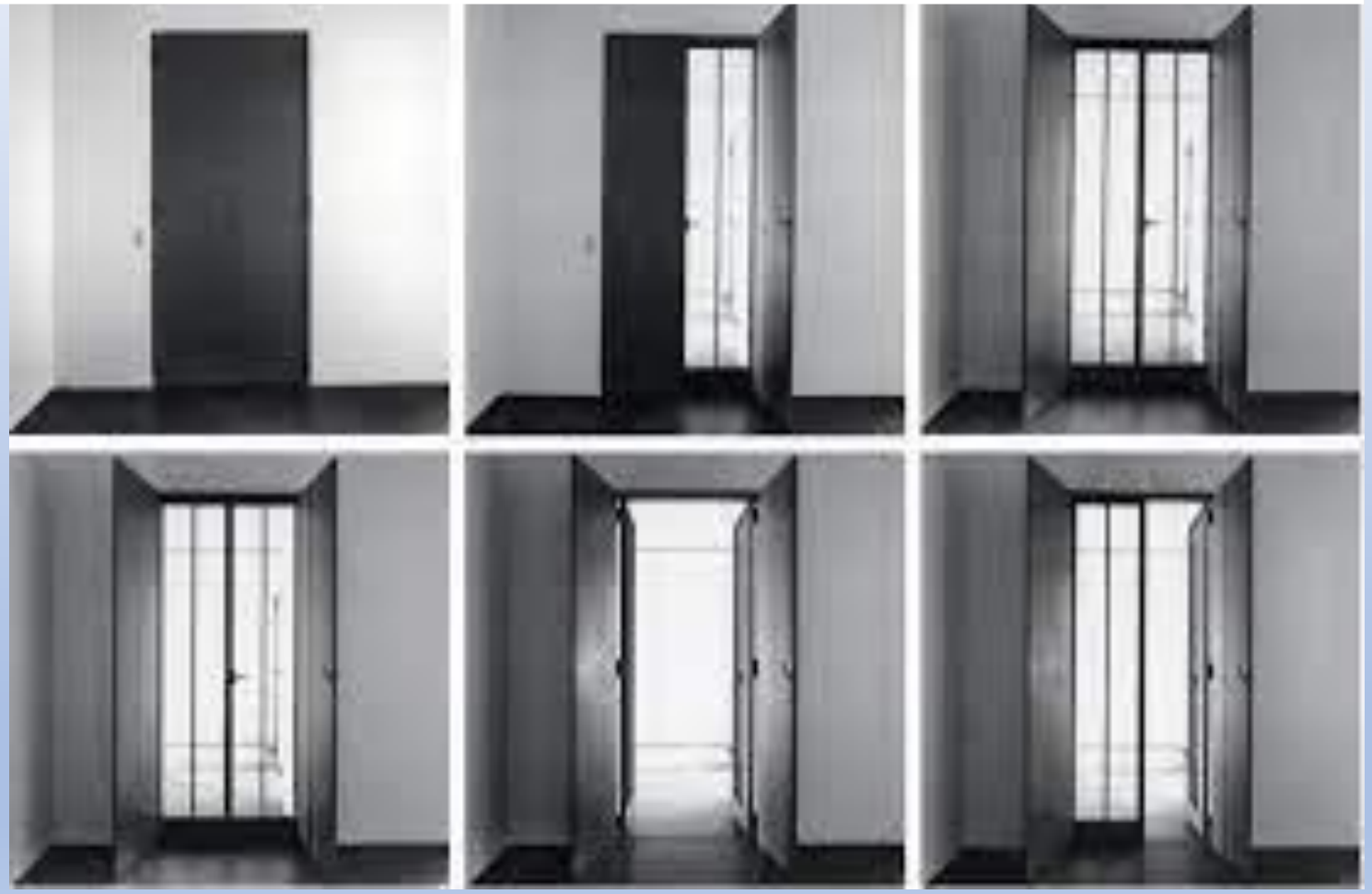
L. Wittgenstein, *Haus Wittgenstein*, 1926-1928

[1] Ian Angus,
Technique and Enlightenment (1984)

Positions

Ian Angus:
«Instrumental reason is limited to the calculation of efficient means and cannot determine the ends to which those means are directed»[1].

Julian Simon:
«The ultimate resource is people—skilled, spirited, and hopeful people who will exert their wills and imaginations for their own benefit, and so inevitably they will benefit not only themselves but the rest of us as well»[2].



L. Wittgenstein, *Haus Wittgenstein*, 1926-1928

[1] Ian Angus, *Technique and Enlightenment* (1984)

[2] Julian Simon, *The Ultimate Resource* (1981)

Crisis **κρίσις** (*krísis)* - κρίνω (*krínō*):

“to separate, decide, judge, distinguish”

Crisis **κρίσις** (*krísis)* - κρίνω (*krínō*):

“to separate, decide, judge, distinguish”

To decide for a new value of our destination. One that is not emminently practical

Concerning the "Destination of the Human Being"

Bestimmung

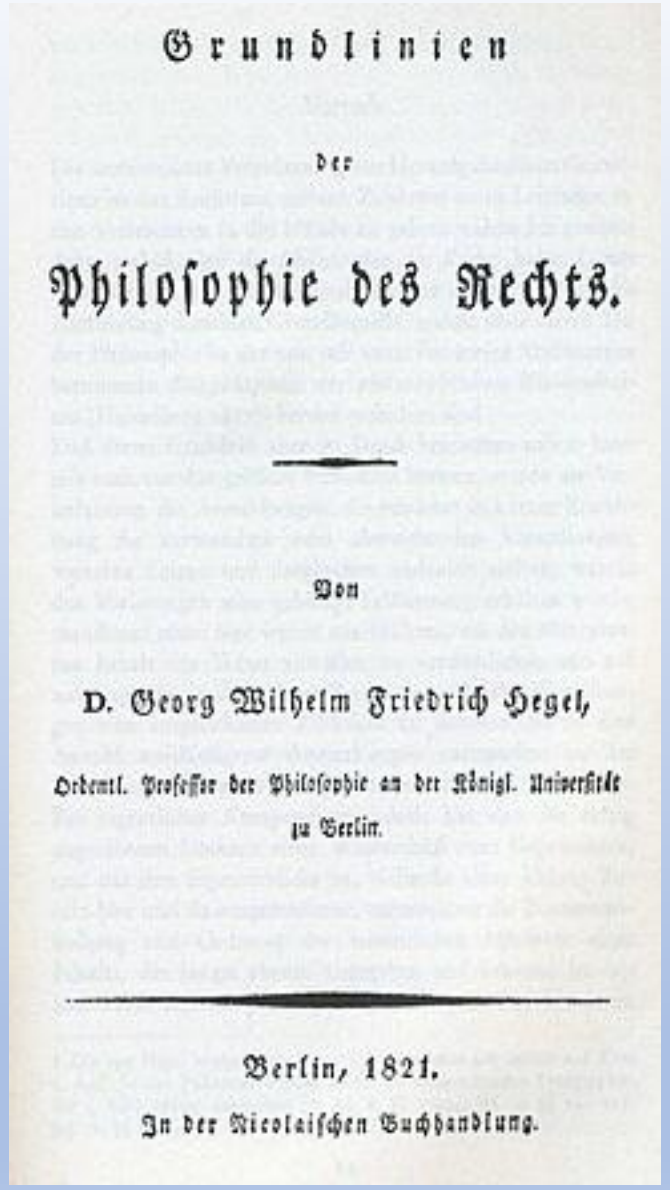
Destination

Concerning the "Destination of the Human Being"

Bestimmung

Destination

Determination



Grundlinien

der

Philosophie des Rechts.

Von

D. Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel,

Ordentl. Professor der Philosophie an der Königl. Universität zu Berlin.

Berlin, 1821.

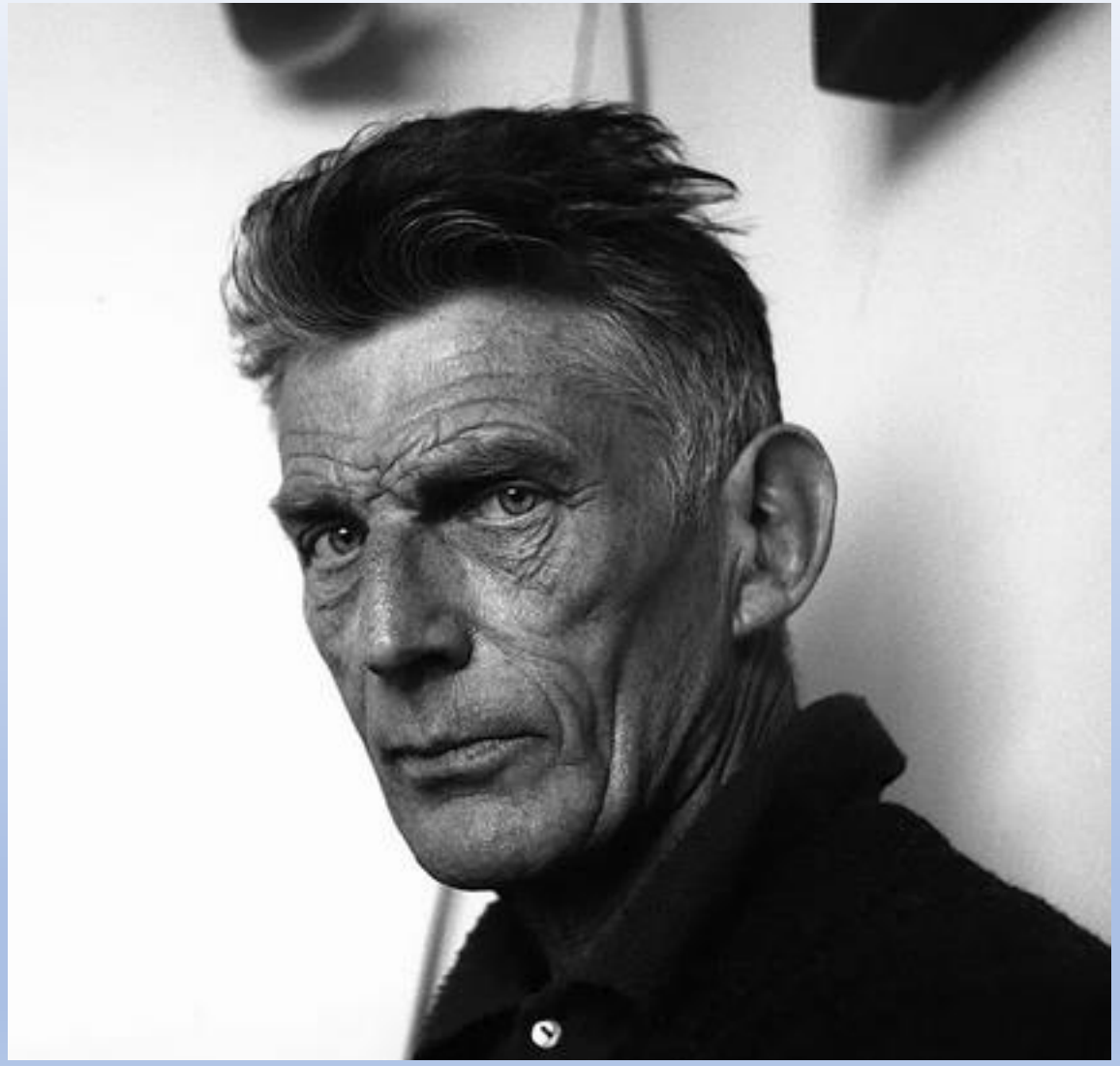
In der Nicolaischen Buchhandlung.

*The Spirit of a people attains new forms of consciousness through the development of its institutions, laws, and culture; **what was once unconscious** becomes conscious in the course of history.*

G.W.F. Hegel, *Lectures on the Philosophy of Spirit*

… so

…“Nothig to be done”?



Thank You!

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