

The philosopher and the polemist

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Abstract:

Friedrich Nietzsche is recognized as one of the fiercest polemist in the history of modern philosophy. His contradictions – expressly declared or not – are so constitutive of his writings that it is inappropriate to deny their meaning as a central aspect of his philosophical character. However, this character is usually considered motivated for disenchantment and/or resentment – precisely what Nietzsche combats on his works. The aim of this article is to investigate the relation between Nietzsche's discursive style and his philosophical personality. It is supposed that Nietzsche's polemical attitude isn't caused by reactive sentiments – what implies in distinguishing between a reactive and an active contraposition – and that it is articulated in terms of specific and impersonal argumentative strategies, as well as it is the expression of an original philosophical practice.

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