

Deleuze, Agamben and Bartleby

Carlos Augusto Peixoto Junior*

Abstract: This article aims fundamentally to present and collate the main theses developed by Gilles Deleuze and Giorgio Agamben concerning Bartleby, the main character of a short story written by American writer Herman Melville. What one notes is that, unlike other readings that attributed to the character a negativity tending to a kind of pathology, both Deleuze and Agamben saw in Bartleby a potency of affirmation of subjectivity in its absolutely singular dimension. In Deleuze this can be identified from what the author called “logic of preference”. In Agamben, what stands out is what the Italian philosopher identifies as a sort of “logic of contingency”.

Keywords: Deleuze; Agamben; Bartleby; potency; singularity.

* Psicólogo; Psicanalista; Professor do Departamento de Psicologia e do Programa de Pós-graduação em Psicologia Clínica da PUC-Rio. Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brasil. Contato: cpeixoto@puc-rio.br