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**Title:** *Talking about what can’t be talked about – conceptualization and philosophical method in Schopenhauer’s philosophy*

**Abstract:**

Schopenhauer’s philosophy is marked by an internal problem. On the one hand the experience of the human being is presented by him as the only point of reference for the interpretation of the world. On the other hand he clearly wants to carry out metaphysical investigations that seem to go well beyond human experience. This leads to the methodological question – what can be talked about in metaphysics and in which way?

In the presentation I will first shortly sketch the overall structure of Schopenhauer’s philosophy. Special attention will be paid to his foundation of metaphysics in the subjective empirical experience.

Then I will discuss the most crucial elements of his theory of concepts. Within this theory he comes to the conclusion that concepts are a highly inadequate representation of the world as we experience it. Simultaneously, concepts are the main substrate of philosophy and metaphysics and have to be used to present notions that go beyond sensual experience.

Thus, I will then go over to discussing his philosophical method, which is an attempt to overcome this problem. I will especially concentrate on the question how his subjective empiricism and language-skepticism contribute to relativistic and non-rationalistic tendencies within his philosophy and to the way he designs his philosophical narration.