

D I G I T H U M

A RELATIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON CULTURE AND SOCIETY

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Introduction

Materials section

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For the materials section of this issue, we offer two pieces: a translation by the professor Cecilia Díaz Isenrath of Georg Simmel's text *Henri Bergson* and an essay by the professor PhD. Daniel Gutiérrez Martínez called *On the essay as paroxysmal form of the utopian thinking: present living pasts*.

Henri Bergson was written by Simmel between June and August of 1914 when he had already settled in Strasbourg.¹ Here Simmel accounts for the French philosopher outlining his importance for the philosophical tradition by regarding his Philosophy of Life as the main feature for a modern conception of the world in the early 20th century. Additionally, Simmel's relational reading of Bergson

is evident when stating on the so called absolute characteristic of time and also on the possibility of a concept of life which goes further about pairs and contradictions.

On the other hand, PhD. Gutiérrez Martínez offers an intellectual history of the essay as a counterpart of the scientific paper. The author finds the former as a merging possibility of temporal, experiential and reflexive dimensions given its dialogical characteristics.

Both pieces show, in their own specific ways, relational ways of dealing with the notions of time, history, memory and imagination, which was the invitation for this twentieth issue of *Digithum*.

<<http://doi.org.10.7238/d.v0i20.3111>>

1. For more details of the text, and to complement the translator's first footnote, see G. Simmel (2000) "Henri Bergson" In: *Aufsätze und Abhandlungen 1909-1918 Band II*. Edition by Klaus Latze 1st ed., 53-69 and 395-412. Georg Simmel Gesamtausgabe 13 Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp Verlag.