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The Enunciation of the Subject: Sharing Jean-Luc Nancy’s Singular Plural in the Classroom

ABSTRACT

In this paper I will explore the implications of the contemporary French philosopher Jean-Luc Nancy’s reading of the subject for educational philosophy by connecting his re-interpretation of Descartes to his later thinking on what he names the ontological singular plural. Nancy’s re-imagining of the Cartesian cogito revolves around the figure of the mouth (la bouche) through which the subject enunciates itself within the world. Reading this extension of the ego through the mouth as an enunciation of ontological singular plurality exposes a speaking subject that communicates via a sharing of its own being with other singular subjects. I will thus argue that Nancy’s singular plural holds potential for affirming a substance-less subjectivity that can nevertheless serve as a viable locus of meaning in the classroom.