Jörg Noller

Introduction

If the task of philosophy is not only to look back, but also to claim significance for the present and the future, then it must not remain silent about the more recent developments. It must take a critical stance, reflect on everyday phenomena, and even coin new terms that will help us better understand reality – a reality that increasingly includes *digital realities*. The lifeworld significance of digitization is particularly evident in political issues. This volume presents the extended »Jahrbuch-Kontroverse« on Luciano Floridi's essay »The Green and the Blue – A New Political Ontology for a Mature Information Society«[1]. This topic is highly relevant because it touches on the following questions: How can Europe benefit politically and socially from the possibilities of digitalization and overcome its crises that have plagued it in recent times? How can it realize a »human project« and reach the unity of »green« ecology and »blue« information technology? How can nature (φύσις) and technology (τέχνη) be united in a politically meaningful way for the benefit of humanity? And finally: How can we develop and cultivate a philosophical discussion of digital politics? In his initiative essay,[2] Floridi shows how digitization has a very concrete impact on everyday political and social phenomena, and how this transforms our ontology of space and time, as represented since Aristotle and Newton, because is now not so much things as their relations that gain importance.

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[1] The main part of this debate appeared in the *Philosophisches Jahrbuch* 2020(2)–2021(2). Luciano Floridi's essay appeared in volume 2020(2), 307–338, the critical discussion in volume 2021(1), 84–169, and his replies in volume 2021(2), 378–393. The other contributions were written exclusively for this collection. In what follows, the original page numbers will be given in square brackets, as well as the minor additions for the reprint. Minor errors have been silently corrected.

[2] The essay is a short synthesis of some of the topics discussed in the book *The Green and The Blue – Naïve Ideas to improve Politics in an Information Society*, to be published by Wiley.

Floridi's reflections mark the beginning of a digital philosophy or a »philosophy of digitality«, the full consequences of which have yet to be systematically unfolded.[3]

Following the tradition of past »Jahrbuch-Debatten«, the debate presented below is vehemently fought.[4] We thank the ›sparring partners‹ involved for their stamina and punch – Manfred Broy, Markus Gabriel, Armin Grunwald, Ruth Hagengruber, Alexander Kriebitz, Christoph Lütge, Raphael Max, Catrin Misselhorn, and Malte Rehbein.

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[3] For a philosophical definition of the concept of digitality, see Jörg Noller, *Digitalität. Zur Philosophie der digitalen Lebenswelt*, Basel 2022.

[4] These past debates include, for example, those on Markus Gabriel's »Neutral Realism« and on Rahel Jaeggi's »Critique of Life Forms«.