



Nishida Kitarō, *Uno studio sul bene*

Milano: Mimesis, 2017, 234 pages. €20.90
ISBN: 978-8857537047

Pensiero ed esperienza vissuta corporea

Milano: Mimesis, 2019, 284 pages. €20.90
ISBN: 978-8857547183

Nishida Kitarō, *Opere di Kitarō Nishida* (Milano: Mimesis, 2017–)

The first systematic attempt to publish an Italian translation of the works of Nishida Kitarō (西田幾多郎, 1870–1945) was launched in 2017 by the Milano-based publisher Mimesis in collaboration with Enrico Fongaro of Tōhoku University, Japan, who serves as general editor of the series.

Under the title *Opere di Kitarō Nishida*, the series aims to present scholarly translations from the original Japanese texts with commentaries and annotations by Professor Fongaro, an established authority on Nishida's work and thought. The proposed collection will cover seventeen volumes, based on the first eight volumes of the revised Japanese edition of Nishida's collected works, 『西田幾多郎全集』, published by Iwanami Shoten of Tokyo between 2002 and 2009. The Japanese edition includes everything Nishida published during his lifetime, as well as sixteen volumes of supplementary papers, lecture notes, fragments, personal diary, poetry, and correspondence (Vols. 9–24). Unlike the Japanese edition, the Italian translation will only include one of Nishida's works in each volume. A complete listing has been appended to the end of this review.

The series as such is to be arranged in chronological order from 1911 to 1945, although the actual date of the publication of individual volumes will depend on their completion. The first two volumes appeared in 2017 and 2019, to be followed in autumn of this year by vol. 6 of the collection. The plan is then to issue one volume per year.

The first volume of the series, *Uno studio sul bene*,¹ corresponds to Nishida's maiden work. The original translation, published in 2007 with Bollati Boringhieri, has been revised for its inclusion in this series. Volume 2, *Pensiero ed esperienza vissuta corporea*,² was published in 2019 and contains the second half of vol. 1 of the Japanese *Collected Works*. Nishida followed this with three important works, some of which are available in other languages but which will only be issued at a later date: *Intuizione e riflessione nell'autoconsapevolezza*,³ *Il problema della coscienza*,⁴ and *Arte e morale*.⁵

The third volume is scheduled to appear late next year under the title *Dall'agente al vedente*.⁶ With two exceptions—"Place" and "A Reply to Professor Sōda"⁷—the essays that make up the volume have never before appeared in Italian translation. The volume covers essays from Nishida's second period, when he developed his logic of place (場所の論理). Because these writings find Nishida looking back over his previous writings and summing up its main ideas as a bridge to a new set of questions, a thorough knowledge of his previous work (including much that will be published later in the series) was required in the preparation of this volume. Fongaro's strategy in issuing this book as the third in the series was to adjust the translation of the vocabulary employed by Nishida during his first period in the light of its usage in the second, thus bringing consistency to the whole.

The same quest of consistency is behind Fongaro's decision to follow Nishida's introduction of the logic of place with vol. 7 of the series, *Il sistema autoconsapevole dell'universale*⁸ and vol. 8, *La determinazione autoconsapevole del nulla*.⁹ In this way, the main developments of Nishida's logic of place will be available in three volumes published sequentially. Fongaro's ordering is also beneficial in terms of unifying Nishida's terminology. As difficult as translating some of his key terms can be, a comparison of their use in the three volumes helps ensure uniformity. This, in turn,

1. *An Inquiry into the Good* (『善の研究』, 1911), *Collected Works of Nishida Kitarō* (hereafter NKZ) 1: 1–159.

2. *Thought and Experience* (『思索と体験』, 1915), NKZ 1: 161–334.

3. *Intuition and Reflection in Self-Consciousness* (『自覺に於ける直観と反省』, 1915), NKZ 2: 1–271.

4. *The Problem of Consciousness* (『意識の問題』, 1920), NKZ 2: 273–457.

5. *Art and Morality* (『芸術と道德』, 1923), NKZ 3: 1–247.

6. *From Acting to Seeing* (『働くものから見るものへ』, 1923–1927), NKZ 3: 249–554.

7. Both essays were published in Kitarō Nishida, *Luogo* (Milano: Mimesis, 2012) and translated by Enrico Fongaro: "Luogo" (31–95) and "Risposta al professor Sōda" (107–34).

8. *A System of Universals with Respect to Self-Awareness* (『一般者の自覚的体系』, 1930), NKZ 4: 1–381.

9. *The Determination of Nothingness in Self-Awareness* (『無の自覚的限定』, 1932) NKZ 5: 1–353.

simplifies things for the reader and avoids the kind of confusion that easily sets in when later writings suggest a reformation of vocabulary in works previously translated. In addition, as Fongaro himself has noted, recent French translations of many of the above-mentioned works have been helpful in rendering terms in a cognate language like Italian. In particular, over the past five years Jacynthe Tremblay has released translations of *From Acting to Seeing*,¹⁰ *A System of Universals with Respect to Self-Awareness*,¹¹ and *The Determination of Nothingness in Self-Awareness*,¹² as well as a lexicon of Nishida's philosophical terms.¹³

The translation of individual volumes and the general undertaking as a whole have been enriched by a study group that meets tri-monthly in Kyoto to analyze and discuss Nishida's works. In the last months, under the direction of Akitomi Katsuya 秋富克哉, the group has been discussing *A System of Universals with Respect to Self-Awareness*. In addition to the support of these scholars and that of the wider academic community, Fongaro has also come to depend on the counsel and suggestions of Tiziano Tosolini and Marcello Ghilardi for polishing the completed manuscripts.

With regard to his method of translation, Fongaro's approach has been to prioritize the meaning and intentions of the author, reading the texts in the light of Nishida's entire corpus and the development of his philosophical thinking, rather than be governed by the literal meaning of particular words. This is one of his reasons for avoiding extensive annotation of the translations and detailed scholarly introductions to individual works and their place in Nishida's overall thought. His aim is to render the text in an idiom that allows it to stand on its own. Thus, unlike the first Boringhieri edition of *Uno studio sul bene*, not to mention numerous other translations of Nishida up until now, the books in the Mimesis series contain only a small number of footnotes with necessary information and a brief afterword. Fongaro sees it as his task as editor and translator to immerse readers in the atmosphere of Nishida's thought without guiding their interpretation or distracting them with peripheral data.

Fongaro's light editorial hand is also behind the choice to refrain from providing the usual glossary at the end of the book or embedding too many bracketed details in the body of the translation to clarify ambiguous or difficult terms. The

10. *De ce qui agit à ce qui voit* (Montreal: Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal, 2015).

11. *Autoéveil: Le système des universels* (Nagoya: Chisokudō Publications, 2017).

12. *La Détermination du néant marquée par l'autoéveil* (Nagoya: Chisokudō Publications, 2019).

13. *Le lexique philosophique de Nishida Kitarō: Japonais-français, Français-japonais* (Nagoya: Chisokudō Publications, 2020).

most important Japanese terms are given in Japanese script on their first appearance, transliterated into Roman letters, and specified in a footnote. This allows the text to retain its polish and to flow smoothly without stuttering at an overload of information. The possibility of a supplementary volume devoted to the impact of the Japanese language on Nishida's thinking and to a detailed panoramic exposition of his philosophy has not been ruled out, but the immediate task is to complete the translation of the *Opere*.

Works of Nishida already available in Italian include the following: *L'io e il tu*,¹⁴ *L'intuizione attiva*,¹⁵ *Saggio sulla filosofia di Cartesio* and *Appendice*,¹⁶ *La logica del luogo e la visione religiosa del mondo*,¹⁷ *Uno studio sul bene*,¹⁸ *Luogo*,¹⁹ and *Problemi fondamentali della filosofia*.²⁰

OPERE DI KITARŌ NISHIDA

Vol.	Title of work	Original source
1	Uno studio sul bene	善の研究 (NKZ 1)
2	Pensiero ed esperienza vissuta corporea	思索と体験 (NKZ 1)
3	Intuizione e riflessione nell'autoconsapevolezza	自覚に於ける直観と反省 (NKZ 2)
4	Il problema della coscienza	意識の問題 (NKZ 3)
5	Arte e morale	芸術と道徳 (NKZ 3)
6	Dall'agente al vedente	働くものから見るものへ (NKZ 3)
7	Il sistema autoconsapevole dell'universale	一般者の自覚的体系 (NKZ 4)
8	La determinazione autoconsapevole del nulla	無の自覚的限定 (NKZ 5)
9	Problemi fondamentali di filosofia: il mondo dell'agire	哲学の根本問題: 行為の世界 (NKZ 6)
10	Problemi fondamentali di filosofia: il mondo dialettico	哲学の根本問題: 弁証法的世界 (NKZ 6)

14. 『私と汝』, trans. by R. Andolfato (Padova: Unipress, 1996).

15. 『行為的直観』, trans. by Matteo Cestari (Venice: Cafoscarina, 2001).

16. 『デカルト哲学について—附録』, trans. by Matteo Cestari (Venice: Cafoscarina, 2001).

17. 『場所的論理と宗教的世界観』, trans. by Tiziano Tosolini (Palermo: L'Epos, 2005; Nagoya: Chisokudo 2017).

18. 『善の研究』, trans. by Enrico Fongaro (Turin: Bollati Boringhieri, 2007).

19. 『場所』, trans. by Enrico Fongaro (Milano: Mimesis, 2012).

20. 『哲学の基礎問題』, trans. by Enrico Fongaro et al. (Venice: Marsilio 2014).

Vol.	Title of work	Original source
11	Saggi filosofici I	哲学論文集第一 (NKZ 7)
12	Saggi filosofici II	哲学論文集第二 (NKZ 8)
13	Saggi filosofici III	哲学論文集第三 (NKZ 8)
14	Saggi filosofici IV	哲学論文集第四 (NKZ 9)
15	Saggi filosofici v	哲学論文集第五 (NKZ 10)
16	Saggi filosofici VI	哲学論文集第六 (NKZ 10)
17	Saggi filosofici VII	哲学論文集第七 (NKZ 10)

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