

L'esistenzialismo planetario e l'Antropocene

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Planetary Existentialism and the Anthropocene

Abstract: This paper analyses Matteo Pietropaoli's notion of planetary existentialism as a philosophical response to the Anthropocene. Focusing on the book's constructive dimension, it examines the attempt to articulate a renewed universal sense of the human grounded in collective action aimed at limiting human power and preserving the conditions of life on Earth. Planetary existentialism is presented as a response to a heightened, collective form of nihilism, shifting existential concern from individual existence to species-level responsibility and from human finitude to the finitude of the Earth system. The paper outlines three main features of this approach – the centrality of the species, the primacy of life over power and truth, and an expanded concept of freedom encompassing human and non-human life – before raising critical questions concerning justice, anthropocentrism, extinction, the subject of the Anthropocene, and the constraints on freedom imposed by planetary dynamics. It concludes that while planetary existentialism offers a compelling diagnosis of the Anthropocene, its adequacy as a practical and theoretical framework remains open.

Keywords: Planetary existentialism, Ethics, Freedom, Existence, Life.

notizie di POLITEIA, XLII, 162, 2026. ISSN 1128-2401 pp. 121-126