

Zakład Filozofii Kultury

Instytutu Filozofii UJ

ma zaszczyt zaprosić na odczyt

dr Carli Milani Damião (Federal University of Goiás, Brazilia)

Odczyt odbędzie się we czwartek 23 stycznia 2020 roku

w Instytucie Filozofii w sali 25 o godzinie 16.00.



“The memory of oneself and the world. Autobiographical narratives and historical time in the search for the presentation of truth in Goethe and Benjamin”

My goal is to talk about the association between two German thinkers from different historical periods, Wolfgang Goethe and Walter Benjamin, with a view to their autobiographical narratives. This kind of narrative can be found in their autobiographies, travel accounts, and personal correspondence. My intention is not to comment on facts and personal episodes, but to reflect on the philosophical aspect of this type of writing. In Benjamin's entry for the *Great Soviet Encyclopedia* on Goethe, he says he recognizes in the autobiography of the great German poet, *Poetry and Truth*, the urge and the mimetic intent to reflect the world. However, there would be a doubt about true self-knowledge mirrored in a transparent way in the narrative. For Benjamin, the irony in Goethe would be a counterpoint to the so-called Rousseau style, acknowledged as the “aesthetic of sincerity”. The ideal of sincerity, restrained by irony, turns the former into a less expressive presentation where self-worship, more than ironized, is harshly criticized. If, in order to draw a contrast, we compare the first words of Goethe's and Benjamin's autobiographies, we may notice more marked differences, directions, and purposes toward subjectivity, but we find in common a self-presentation pervaded by a kind of

fidelity to history. My conclusion intends to point out how the time of autobiographical narrative and historical time converge in the constitution of a self that aims to be objectified in history, whether in Goethean autobiographical enterprise or in Benjamin's autobiographical writing, as well as in their travelling accounts.

Dr. Carla Milani Damião is a PhD in Philosophy and a lecturer/researcher at the Federal University of Goiás, Brazil. She has published several articles and has edited numerous books in the field of aesthetics. She is the author of *On the Decline of 'Sincerity'. Philosophy and Autobiography from Jean-Jacques Rousseau to Walter Benjamin* (Loyola Publisher, 2019). She has spent 2019 as a guest researcher at the University of Padua (Italy) and at the University of São Paulo (Brazil).