

## What is Comparative Philosophy?

Comparative Philosophy is a principal method of philosophy. It reflects the relationship between various ways, disciplines, and systems of thinking. Its goal is to connect and integrate cultures. This is essential for understanding the relationship between Eastern and Western philosophy, as well as between Western and non-Western cultures. Its validity is also evident and essential for interdisciplinary research.

It is a *meta-philosophy* in which the thinker consciously steps outside the framework of their own thinking to analyze their own and others' thoughts objectively. This allows for new philosophical contributions to emerge.

The key concept of "comparison" is not an externally selective comparison from point to point in a surface of concepts or characters, as is *often the case with beginners or misinterpretations of any school of thought*. In Hegel's *Science of Logic*, an "external reflection" (*äußere Reflexion*) is the beginning status when the thinker consciously places themselves in a topic. This leads the thematic object step by step toward a dialectical intermediate balance (determining reflection) through a reflexive comparison of the previously familiar knowledge and another upcoming one. The goal of this dialectical processual reflection is to achieve an interim balance: Decisive reflection (*Bestimmende Reflexion*).

. Independent of Hegelianism, Charles A. Moore, one of the pioneers of comparative philosophy in the USA in the 1960s, said, 'Comparative reflections accompany every step of philosophical thought.'

© KoPhil, Vienna

(Association of Comparative Philosophy and Interdisciplinary Education/

„Verein für Komparative Philosophie und Interdisziplinäre Bildung“

ZVR 608499578, Republic of Austria)