

Anna Donise

Gli involucri tra forma e vita: per una difesa dell'inautentico

Dipartimento di Studi umanistici
Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II
Italy
e-mail: anna.donise@unina.it

The present essay analyses Jasper's concept of "*Gebäuse*". The *Gebäuse*, "cases" or "shells", are the forms that define subjectivity, which we work very hard to construct. When the subject experiences change or development, though, the "shell" can become too rigid and suffocating, so the subject feels the need to get out of that form, at the risk of ending up like "an oyster without the shell". In Jaspers' perspective, however, these "casings" are unavoidable and their dismissal is a question of "metamorphosis" rather than veritable "destruction": as soon as one form is rejected, another one is constructed. This paper intends to show the positive value of the *Gebäuse*: they shape us and reveal us to ourselves and others. Starting from this reading, I will rethink one of the established categorical antinomies of existentialism: that between "authentic" and "inauthentic". In particular, I will question the implicit axiology that comes with it.