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*Alla ricerca della coscienza dall'animale all'uomo: l'influenza di Jakob von Uexküll su Ernst Cassirer*

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In this paper, I aim to discuss von Uexküll's influence on Cassirer's philosophical anthropology to explain why Cassirer considers von Uexküll's biology a source of both inspiration and friction. In short, I will show that two theses coexist in Cassirer's thought: on the one hand, Cassirer underlines that to understand what is human we should assume that there is a qualitative shift which brings from animals to human beings; on the other, humans are living beings and biology plays an important role in determining such a switch. Finally, I will deal with the definition of consciousness and Cassirer's use of von Uexküll's concept of "*Gegenwelt*", which he exploits to structure the relationship between "subjectivity" and "objectivity". Also in this respect, I will suggest that Cassirer adjusts von Uexküll's theory to strengthen his philosophical anthropology, while emphasising its biological heritage.