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*La svolta in direzione delle cose. Tra le pieghe dell'apriorismo materiale di Max Scheler*

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This paper focuses on the conception of the material a priori that was developed by Scheler in the context of his critique of Kant's ethical formalism. Starting from a reconstruction of the distinctive identity of Scheler's phenomenology, I dwell on some aspects of the relationship between ontology and phenomenology, with a view to differentiating his position from those of two major interpreters of twentieth century phenomenology, Husserl and Heidegger. After considering Scheler's early transformation of apriorism, still largely influenced by Eucken's doctrine of spirit, I examine his gradual departure from transcendentalism via his criticism of the biases of Kant's notion of a priori. Next, an investigation of Scheler's objectivism, which is centred on a phenomenological attitude that crucially relies on eidetic intuition and the associated ontology, allows me to throw some light on the differences between his and Husserl's view of the material a priori. Finally, I attempt to show how the introduction of the concept of functionalization in Scheler's philosophy gave his material a priori an empirical twist, leading to the resurfacing of the neo-Kantian influences that had been somewhat characteristic of his early thought.