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*Max Scheler ed Ernst Cassirer*

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Max Scheler and Ernst Cassirer, who belonged to the same generation, probably never met each other. Yet, their writings contain some remarkable mutual references, which show that their respective positions on certain issues are comparable both thematically and methodologically. Adopting a philosophical structural comparative approach is thus preferable to seeking mutual personal influences. Scheler and Cassirer share an appreciation of the phenomenon of expression as the paradigm of reality. From that common starting point, they both arrive at a conception of culture and anthropology (as a set of knowledge forms) in which the state of crisis plays a constitutive role. The two writers diverge on the subject of metaphysics. But metaphysical and religious views can be found even where Cassirer is most critical about Scheler's metaphysics – and such views articulate precisely Cassirer's basic anthropological-cultural stance.