

Alberto Gualandi,

*The human neotenic individualization and the exaptational and communicative origin of «sense»*

In the light of the recent *evo-devo* discoveries, the essay is an attempt to redefine in present terms two crucial problems for the French philosophy of biology: the singular temporality of the «individualization process» and the peculiar «errancy», or «deterritorialization», of sensory and cognitive human being equipment. Thanks to the analysis provided by contemporary evolutionists and neurobiologists, the essay intends to focus two tightly linked concepts – the anthropobiological concept of acceleration/slowing down of «individualization», and the concept of communicative structure of the experience – both able to give account of the human origin of «sense». While the first concept suggests us that the human being is a primate «born a year too early» and overexposing his own plastic and premature brain to a social and natural environment for an extremely long period of development, the second one shows us that the human being can compensate for such a «ultraneotenic» condition only through exaptation, at sensory and cognitive level, of the metaphorical and communicative relation that from the very first months puts him in an indissoluble relationship with the *Other*.