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*The problem of the living and XX century philosophy in France*

The purpose of the present paper is to open the way to the problem of life that characterizes the present moment in philosophy, however not by a direct study of its fundamental polarities (the vital and the mortal, human and animal beings, care and power), but through a historical study of the polarities that characterized it over the main philosophical “moments” of XX century French philosophy, thus unexpectedly revealed. We examine the two meanings of life in Bergson, biological and human life according to Politzer, the normal and the pathological in Canguilhem, and indicate how life and language, life and power, life and death are indeed at the heart of the “60s moment” in French philosophy. The question of life is therefore at the point of convergence between the study of XX century philosophy in France and that of the present moment in philosophy.