

***The Overlooked Source of Critical Rationalism:
Arthur Schopenhauer's Influence on Karl Popper***

Man is a rational being. Its survival in the harsh natural environment was probably due to its exceptional cognitive ability. However, the faculty of reason had not only allowed man to adapt to the environment, but also made possible what can be called a miracle, the emergence of scientific knowledge.

Karl Raimund Popper is regarded as one of the most influential philosophers of science. The model of science proposed in his *Logic of Scientific Discovery*, published in the first half of the 20th century, presented science as capable of producing fallible and objective knowledge (features which are not contradictory). Despite being repeatedly criticized, *The Logic* is considered one of the most important books on the philosophy of science to date and enables the understanding of the specificity of modern science. Popper's goal was to reinterpret Immanuel Kant's philosophy and use it in a debate with representatives of the Vienna Circle. For this reason, his position was called critical rationalism.

Researchers note that Artur Schopenhauer, another thinker indebted to Kant's philosophy, also presented a model of science as fallible knowledge in the first half of the 19th century. Questions arise that have not yet been answered satisfactorily. Did Schopenhauer anticipate Popper's views? If so, is there evidence to support the assumption that Schopenhauer's works directly influenced Popper's philosophy?

Four reasons support the need to compare the philosophies of Schopenhauer and Popper. First, there are the evident similarities between the views of these two philosophers, cited in the literature on the subject. Second, there are Popper's remarks—which researchers have ignored—in which the former describes Schopenhauer as one of his masters. Third, there is the relationship of these two thinkers to Kant's philosophy. Fourth, there is the relationship between the metaphysical concepts of these two thinkers and the problems of the philosophy of biology: both criticize materialism by assuming an emergent model of reality: Schopenhauer from the perspective of the concept of the levels of objectification of the will, and Popper on the basis of the idea of an open universe.

This research project has four main goals. The first goal is to create a new perspective on the non-obvious and insufficiently explored relationship between Schopenhauer and Popper. The second goal is to evaluate the existing literature on the subject, which indicates similarities between the two philosophers. The third goal is to consider the possibility of direct influence of Schopenhauer's works on Popper's philosophy. The fourth goal is to assess the scope of similarities and differences in these thinkers' epistemological and metaphysical positions.

The research plan consists of two main parts.

A. The task of the first part is to conduct a comparative analysis of the epistemological positions of Schopenhauer and Popper in the light of Kant's philosophy, Kantianism, and criticism. The links between the philosophies of Schopenhauer and Popper with Kant's are obvious but far from clear. For this reason, three categories of criticism will be used in the analysis: separative criticism, anti-dogmatic criticism and epistemological criticism (Dariusz Kubok is an author of this distinction), which will clarify the Kantianism of Schopenhauer and Popper.

B. The task of the second part is to undertake a comparative analysis of the metaphysical positions of Schopenhauer and Popper in the face of the issues of the philosophy of biology. In their reflections, both make references to the biological sciences. While Schopenhauer enters into a polemic with Lamarck's early theory of evolution, Popper reflects critically on 20th-century neo-Darwinism. The most important task of this part of the research will be to compare the views of these two philosophers on emergence.

Significant research results are expected. The primary and most important of them is creating a new perspective on the relationship between Schopenhauer and Popper; this study will examine and evaluate the evidence of direct influence of Schopenhauer's works on Popper's philosophy. It is worth noting that the project develops the latest research into the philosophy of science, metaphysics, Kantianism, and criticism of these two philosophers. Moreover, this study has significant aspects related to general philosophical issues. Comparing thinkers from two different historical contexts offers particular perspective on the specificity of philosophy's problems and their relations with the historical and philosophical context.

The substantial and measurable results of this project will have the form of at least four articles written in English, which will be published in international scientific journals.

The innovative aspect of this project consists in filling a gap in the literature on the subject, while contributing significantly to the existing research.