

## Introduction

The first part of this issue of *Flusser Studies* deals with *Até a terceira e a quarta geração* (Unto the Third and Fourth Generation), a book that Vilém Flusser wrote in the first half of the 1960ies and that has received very little attention so far. In March 1965, he published a part of the first chapter (pages 5 to 24) in the first issue of *Cavalo Azul*. The second chapter (pages 26 to 54) “Ex Oriente lux” followed in the same journal in April/Mai 1966. The Portuguese originals of the parts published in *Cavalo Azul* have unfortunately been lost.

The book is 336 pages long and consist of four parts: *A culpa* (Guilt), *A Maldição* (Curse), *O Castigo* (Punishment) and *A Penitência* (Penitence). Each part consists of three chapters with four sections each. Flusser translated the introduction, the first part of the book and the first three sections of the second part into German. This text is 76 pages long. Flusser also translated the corresponding part of the table of contents.

The present issue contains the table of contents, the introduction and the first two sections of the first chapter from the Portuguese and German versions as well as two sections from chapter 9 of the Portuguese version, *O eterno retorno* (Eternal Return) and *O Modelo* (Model). We thank Rodrigo Maltez Novaes who has translated the Portuguese passages into English for the permission to publish these texts in *Flusser Studies*. We also came across a German translation of the Portuguese introduction by Karin Engell that Edith Flusser commissioned in the mid 1990ies. We have decided to publish this translation along with the other texts.

In “Unto the Third and Fourth Generation. The Experience of the Holocaust as the Basis of Vilém Flusser’s Philosophy”, which we have published in a Portuguese, English and Czech version, Eva Batličková approaches the fundamental importance of the Holocaust for Flusser’s philosophy starting out with a detailed analysis of Flusser’s *Até a terceira e a quarta geração* – the first of its kind.

In the second part of the issue, we want to introduce the first book-length biography of Vilém Flusser written by Gustavo Bernardo and Rainer Guldin: the Portuguese version, *O homem sem chão: a biografia de Vilém Flusser*, will be published by Annablume editora in São Paulo and the German version, *Vilém Flusser (1920-1991). Ein Leben in der Bodenlosigkeit*.

*Biographie*, by transcript Verlag in Bielefeld (<http://www.transcript-verlag.de/978-3-8376-4064-9/vilem-flusser-19201991>). Both books are due in September 2017. We thank the editors for the permission to publish two short extracts: the prologue of the Portuguese edition and the epilogue of the German version.

The third part of this issue contains two thematically related essays and the e-book edition of the first issue of *Flusser Studies*. Konrad Wojnowski's "Telematic Freedom and Information Paradox" deals with the relations between the notions of freedom and information in Vilém Flusser's philosophy. Flusser's understanding of freedom is indebted to modern science, in particular to thermodynamics (Léon Brillouin), biochemistry (Jacques Monod), and information theory (Claude E. Shannon). Giacomo Goldoni's "The Free Will Impasse" is an excerpt from a longer work on the notions of entropy and negentropy that Flusser used in his philosophy of photography, to delineate connections between science and art.

Finally, we have added the e-book version of the first issue of *Flusser Studies* along with a short description of the project that aims to publish the first twenty issues of *Flusser Studies*.

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