

Memory, Self, and Time: A Bachelardian Perspective

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Abstract : The French philosopher Gaston Bachelard's philosophy of time is articulated in his two works on the subject, the *Intuition of the Instant* (1932) and his *The Dialectic of Duration* (1936). Both works present a systematic methodology predicated upon the assumption that our understanding of time has radically changed as a result of Einstein and subsequently needs to be reimagined. Bachelard makes a major distinction in his discussion of time: 1. Time as it is (physical time), 2. Time as we experience it (phenomenological time). This paper will focus on the second distinction, phenomenological time, and explore the connections between Bachelard's work and contemporary psychology. Several aspects of Bachelard's philosophy of time nicely complement our current understanding of memory and self and clarify how the self relates to experienced time. Two points, in particular, stand out; the first is the relative nature of subjective time, and the second is the implications of subjective time in the formation of the narrative self. Bachelard introduces two philosophical concepts to explain these points: *rhythmanalysis* and *reverie*. By exploring these concepts, it will become apparent that there is an undeniable link between memory, self, and time. Through the use of narrative self, the individual connects and links memories and time together to form a sense of personal identity.

Keywords : Gaston Bachelard, memory, self, time

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