

Il problema delle categorie

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The Problem of Categories

Abstract: This paper claims that the reconstruction of the Italian bioethical debate provided by Giovanni Fornero [G. Fornero, M. Mori, *Laici e cattolici in bioetica* (2012)] is correct; nonetheless the conceptual dichotomy catholic/secular (“cattolico/laico”), which the reconstruction relies on, is neither necessary nor required by facts or phenomena. Since true descriptions of the same facts can be obtained by relying on alternative systems of categories, a more useful set of categories is proposed, consisting in two independent dichotomies: dogmatic/antidogmatic (“dogmatico/laico”) – relating to reasoning and arguing – and pro-sanctity-of-life/pro-quality-of-life – relating to moral positions concerning bioethical issues. Fornero’s distinction between a strong and a weak sense of secularity (“laicità debole/forte”) is accordingly rejected.

Keywords: Bioethics, Categories, Secular, Catholic, Dogmatic, Antidogmatic, Quality of life, Sanctity of life.