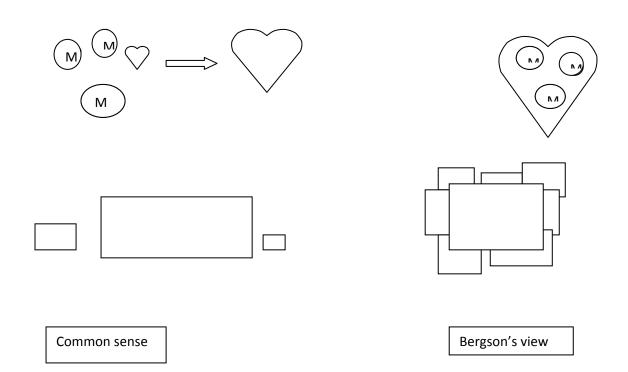
## Nadia Miskowiec

Bergson Course Lecture notes #2 –Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of January.

- Is an emotion cognitive or affective? Bergson tells us that this is a false dichotomy, the wrong way to pose the problem. The two schools have a common presupposition: that an emotional episode has sharp boundaries so that its beginning point can be determined on a time line. Scientific psychology thus creates false problems when applied to real consciousness. We have to turn away from common sense, but also from common philosophy, which is infiltrated by common sense (spatialized time)
  - In that respect B is like Kant in proposing a critical philosophy, a meta-philosophy, that examines the way traditional philosophy sets up insoluble problems. The key is to examine the false presuppositions that set up insoluble problems.
- Can we naturalize Bergson?
   Can we render his theory in modern terms? Do we have a different type of scientific psychology? Is there a contemporary scientific method that can respect Bergson's findings regarding duration?
  - Some claim dynamic system theory is a new type of science, enabling the naturalizing of phenomenology in regards to Husserl.
- Difference in kind between feelings vs. efforts and sensations
   Feelings are emotional unrolling: changes in your entire psychological state
   Ex: when you're sad everything tastes bad.
   We mistakenly think that change in emotion is a change in quantity rather than a change in quality of our inner life. Reflective consciousness thinks in term of increase in magnitude. Instead, we should think in terms of quality.
  - ➤ Passion is a paradigm case, while you are in love you feel everything is different. You might even feel everything in your life has led to this state.



- ➤ If we compare our psychological state to a symphony,
   The dominant note leads the rest of the symphony into its key.
   Every player is an emotion and they take turns to see who will lead the symphony.
   No one emotion can completely dominate, it stays a symphony, not a solo.
- Bergson tells us it is an emotional challenge for us to think in the manner, our consciousness likes clear distinctions. The reason why there is this emotional bond with the way we think in terms of space is because it has a biological use.
   Naturalized epistemology (study of knowledge) tells us that our habits of thought have been passed through our biological filter.
  - ➤ Nietzsche tells us a story:

Three mice go out one day, they
see a cat. The cat kills one of them.
Next day the two go for a walk.
Another cat shows.
The dumb mouse runs away.
The smart mouse realizes that it is
not the same c..
And gets eaten.