

## Abstract

Ola Fransson: Harald Høffding. The philosopher of reconciliation (Harald Høffding. Försoningens filosof)

The ideas in the works of Harald Høffding (1843-1931) constitute the starting point for this study. The purpose of the dissertation is to show which philosophical, cultural and ideological themes were developed in Høffding's philosophy between 1882 and 1916. These are the years when *Outlines of Psychology (Psykologi i Omrids paa Grundlag af Erfaring)* and *Den store Humor (The Grand Humour – not translated)*, respectively, were published.

In the dissertation, I have opted for an analysis of Høffding's philosophy as an historical phenomenon. Considering the position Høffding had, not only in the academic world, but also in the general cultural debates in his time, scholars have paid relatively little attention to his philosophy.

In the dissertation the aim is to examine with what his philosophy resonated and how the answers were expressed in relation to contemporary philosophical and ideological development.

First, I relate Høffding's thought to the development of philosophy during the latter half of the nineteenth century, above all German philosophy. Scientific specialization was in full swing and, by the time Høffding died, the division of labour between sciences had basically reached the level known today. He adjusted his philosophy to this development. At the beginning of his career he had no qualms in writing that philosophy aims at creating a comprehensive worldview. Although later he gave up this conception, Høffding granted philosophy a unique position as a mediator in the conflicts generated in the scientific world.

Second, I relate his philosophy to the Danish political, cultural and social course of events during the second half of the nineteenth century. Høffding's philosophy contributed to defining and legitimating an ideological and cultural norm, which retrospectively appears to have been vigorous throughout a brief period in the Danish history of ideas.

**Keywords:** Brandes, cultural radicalism, experimental psychology, Grundtvig, history of ideas, history of philosophy, Høffding, Kant, Kierkegaard, personality