

## Abstract

This master's thesis deals with the issue of dependence in the context of political philosophy. The first chapter aims to demonstrate when and how the concept of the independent individual emerged in liberal political philosophy. At the same time, the chapter aims to highlight the historical contingency of this viewpoint, both in terms of the specific challenges liberalism sought to address and more general philosophical conceptions. The second chapter focuses on the conservative reaction to liberalism. It first identifies its distinctive features and then explores the ideas used by British conservative Roger Scruton to justify his political intuitions. Three excursions introduce Wittgenstein's argument against private language in the context of his philosophy of *Lebensform*, Hegel's concept of recognition from the dialectic of lord and bondsman, and Charles Taylor's concept of authenticity. The third chapter specifically examines the thinking of Judith Butler, in which the notion of dependence gradually gains increasing significance, whether in its psychological or physiological dimension. The conclusion of the thesis then attempts to demonstrate in what sense the various forms of dependence presented throughout the thesis can be understood as liberating.