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***Self-Awareness and Desire. Paul Schilder and Françoise Dolto on the unity of the self***

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Abstract:

The structure and foundations of self-awareness is a widely discussed problem today. It is, I would argue, also a possible field of dialogue between phenomenology and psychoanalysis. My attempt is to introduce the psychoanalytical notion of desire into the framework of the phenomenology of self-awareness, and to observe the consequences. In order to do so, I first examine the notion of body schema, from Paul Schilder, and his reception; then I bring up Françoise Dolto's notion of the unconscious body image, and compare it to Schilder's approach; finally, I show in what sense the movement of desire can be understood as the unifying principle of the bodily self. One of the side-effects might be a clarification of the very notion of desire (but there is no guarantee on that).