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## **RE-ENCHANTMENT AS A SOLUTION FOR BOREDOM**

Max Weber, examining current society, concludes that the world is *disenchanted*. Modernity ended up in a mechanized worldview – which led to a domination of rationality. (1917/1919).

Many writers and philosophers have taken up this notion. They associate it with the modern existential experience of boredom, caused by a loss of sense. For example, Dostoevsky described this phenomenon in ‘Notes from Underground’ (1864). The main character of this novel takes on what I call ‘an underground identity’ as a reaction against the enlightened, rational egotism (cfr. Levinas) that goes along with the ‘mechanical turn’ in metaphysics. This underground identity is explicated in a tormented, emotional outburst (Dostoevsky, 2010), which can be considered as a direct critique to the scientific claim of the rationalists. However, Dostoevsky was not opposed to science as such, but to the fact that science does not have eye for the unique and the unrepeatable – what he calls: ‘the bigger frame’ (Copleston, 1986). Such a dimension can only be found in a *hermeneutic worldview* (Gadamer, 1960) that acknowledges the human need for sense-giving, for example offered by narratives (Kearney, 2011).

I argue that Dostoevsky evokes a philosophical view on reality which is constructive for the existential experience of sense. The underground man shows us the consequences of a culture that is ill. This illness can be diagnosed in a Nietzschean way (1882) and, what is more, - can also be cured from this illness. This is what I would call ‘re-enchantment’.

Re-enchantment can be a philosophical solution for the modern existential phenomenon of boredom. In my presentation I will elaborate on this possibility.