

# Cabanis and the Philosophy of Human Passions: The Medicalization of Morals and the Politicization of Medicine

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## Summary

Cabanis established a connection between three philosophically crucial issues: the relationship between body and soul, body and mind; the status and place occupied by medicine in politics; the content of anthropological theory. To him, an understanding of the moral dimension of human existence can be gained only on the basis of the knowledge of the physical person. This contribution focuses on the meaning and scope of Cabanis' materialistic anthropology. Based on a commentary of the *Rapports* and of Cabanis' previous works, it highlights the attention paid by Cabanis to the complex processes and interactions that give birth to the moral manifestations of human life. It allows to depart from a linear interpretation of his main thesis. This contribution also aims at proposing an analysis of the place granted to physiological knowledge in regard of the specific goals pursued by political bodies, in a complementary approach to Staum's interpretation of Cabanis' thought.

*Keywords:* Pierre Jean Georges Cabanis, medicine, physiology, anthropology, politics