Hermeneutics and the Philosophy of Religion

Ed. by Ingolf U. Dalferth and Marlene A. Block

(Hermeneutik und Religionsphilosophie. Das Vermächtnis Paul Ricœurs.)

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Paul Ricoeur (1913–2005) was one of the most distinguished and prolific philosophers of religion in the second half of the 20th century. Through his wide-ranging writings, a self-reflexive and critical approach to hermeneutics became an indispensable tool for the philosophical interpretation of the complex text worlds of religious traditions and for critical reflection on cultural phenomena. His philosophical hermeneutics was sensitive to the lack of transparency of the human self and the corresponding intricacies of direct and indirect communication in religion and culture. It was open to the analytic and phenomenological traditions but, by combining phenomenological description with hermeneutical interpretation, also decisively different from other contemporary approaches. On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his birth this volume explores and evaluates Ricoeur’s contributions to the hermeneutic turn in the philosophy of religion. His hermeneutical phenomenology enriches and reorients the contemporary practice of philosophy of religion, moving beyond the barren varieties of metaphysical theism and antitheism in both the analytic and post-analytic traditions.

Survey of contents

Ingolf U. Dalferth: Hermeneutics of the Call: Introduction

I. Hermeneutics and Religion


II. Philosophy and Biblical Poetry

Carsten Pallesen: A »Questioning Lament«: Trajectories of Biblical Poetry and Interpretive Prose in Psalm 22 and in the Passion of Mary as a Hegelian Moment in Ricoeur’s Philosophy of Religion – Duncan Gale: Lamentable Answers and Interpretive Religion, with Continual Reference to Ricoeur and Hegel: A Response to Carsten Palleson – Anselm K. Min: Ricoeur’s Critical Philosophy of History and Hermeneutics of Historical Consciousness: Some Hegelian Responses – Joshua Kira: Could Hegel Survive a Hegelian Critique?: A Response to Anselm Min

III. Hermeneutics and Theology


Ingolf U. Dalferth Geboren 1948; 1977 Promotion; 1982 Habilitation; Professor emeritus für Systematische Theologie, Symbolik und Religionsphilosophie an der Universität Zürich; seit 2008 Danforth Professor of Philosophy of Religion an der Claremont Graduate University in Kalifornien.

Marlene A. Block Bachelor of Arts (Anthropology), University of Toledo; Master of Arts (Anthropology), University of Chicago; Master of Arts (Religion), Claremont Graduate University; Research Assistant and PhD candidate in Philosophy of Religion and Theology, Claremont Graduate University.