

Collegium Metaphysicum

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Metaphysics is the attempt to answer ultimate questions with the help of reason. Such questions concern the world as a whole, its reason for being and the place of humans in it. These questions can not be avoided but neither can they be answered by any single discipline. In many cases, it may be true that the answers given by metaphysics do not always withstand critical examination. It is however also true that other both old and new concepts, which in principle want to dismiss metaphysics, are unconvincing. Then these are always based on assumptions which are of a metaphysical nature themselves. In the long run, the question must surely be not whether reason needs metaphysics, but rather in what way. The *Collegium Metaphysicum* series is a collection of outstanding studies committed to metaphysics from a historical and systematic perspective.

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ISSN: 2191-6683 - Suggested citation: CM

Last updated: 09/05/2021. Prices are subject to change.

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Schellings Freiheitsschrift – Methode, System, Kritik

Herausgegeben von Thomas Buchheim, Thomas Frisch und Nora C. Wachsmann

Volume 26
2021. XI, 503 pages.

ISBN 9783161598890
cloth 99,00 €

ISBN 9783161598906
eBook PDF 99,00 €

Schelling's Freiheitsschrift shows that demonstrating the possibility of human freedom requires us to fundamentally reconceive an unexpectedly wide range of philosophical issues. This volume brings together current perspectives from the international scholarship on Schelling in order to advance the critical evaluation and interpretation of this philosophically rich text.

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Oehl, Thomas

Die Aktivität der Wahrnehmung und die Metaphysik des Geistes

Eine aktualisierende Lektüre von Hegels Philosophie des Geistes

Volume 25
2021. XI, 428 pages.

ISBN 9783161599026
cloth 119,00 €

ISBN 9783161599033
eBook PDF 119,00 €

Hegel's philosophy of spirit unfolds and defends the thought that the human being as a whole is »spirit«. Thomas Oehl actualizes this thought as it pertains to the current philosophical debate on perceptual experience. It is shown that this thought has far-reaching metaphysical implications, especially for the idea of »God«.

Gott und Denken

Zeitgenössische und klassische Positionen zu zentralen Fragen ihrer Verhältnisbestimmung. Für

Friedrich Hermanni zum 60. Geburtstag

Herausgegeben von Christian König und Burkhard Nonnenmacher

Volume 24
2020. IX, 467 pages.

ISBN 9783161598401
cloth 124,00 €

ISBN 9783161598418
eBook PDF 124,00 €

The relationship between God and thinking has occupied theology and philosophy from the very beginning up to the present time. In this book, dedicated to Friedrich Hermanni, internationally renowned experts show that God has something to do with thinking, and thinking with God.

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Christian König/Burkhard Nonnenmacher: Einleitung

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Melichar, Hannes Gustav

Die Objektivität des Absoluten

Der ontologische Gottesbeweis in Hegels »Wissenschaft der Logik« im Spiegel der kantischen Kritik

Volume 23
2020. X, 593 pages.

ISBN 9783161569166
sewn paper 109,00 €

ISBN 9783161569173
eBook PDF 109,00 €

In his work, the author disentangles Hegel's complex approach to the ontological argument as a response to Kant's critique. He demonstrates how Hegel combines the ontological argument with a metareflection on its presuppositions in the *Science of Logic* and how the method of dialectical development of logical concepts is designed to substantiate these presuppositions in the *Logic of the Concept*.

Das Ärgernis der Philosophie

Metaphysik in Adornos Negativer Dialektik

Hrsg. v. Marc Nicolas Sommer u. Mario Schärli

Volume 22
2019. IX, 326 pages.

ISBN 9783161566523
sewn paper 69,00 €

ISBN 9783161566530
eBook PDF 69,00 €

The concept of metaphysics is, according to Adorno, the nuisance of philosophy. On the one hand, metaphysics is the reason why philosophy exists at all; on the other hand, it is barely possible to arrive at a general definition of what metaphysics is about. In his »Meditations on Metaphysics«, the last part of his opus magnum *Negative Dialectics*, Adorno grapples with this tension by reflecting on the project of metaphysics in the light of the contemporary cultural and political setting. The essays in this volume address the various facets of Adorno's engagement with metaphysics. Not limiting themselves to metaphysical issues in a narrower sense, they branch out into subjects that Adorno brings into close connection with metaphysics: the critique of concepts, history, truth, and materialism. By doing so, they map the constellation of a topic of Adorno's *Negative Dialectics* and his philosophy as a whole that up to now has only received scarce attention.

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Marc Nicolas Sommer: Einleitung – Das Ärgernis der Philosophie

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Schleiff, Matthias

Schöpfung, Zufall oder viele Universen?

Ein teleologisches Argument aus der Feinabstimmung der Naturkonstanten

Volume 21
2019. XII, 319 pages.

ISBN 9783161564185
sewn paper 69,00 €

ISBN 9783161564192
eBook PDF 69,00 €

Teleological arguments based on the order of the world point to the existence of a creator, and with the natural sciences now ever better able to describe these orders, the prospects for such arguments in favour of God succeeding have, contrary to popular belief, not worsened but improved. The phenomenon of fine-tuning represents a physical observation that a teleological argument can begin with: if the constants that rule the design of our universe had had even slightly different values, conscious life would never have happened. Matthias Schleiff develops the teleological fine-tuning argument from this phenomenon by confronting alternative explanatory hypotheses – such as randomness, the Anthropic Principle, or the theory of the multiverse – and rekindles the conversation between the natural sciences, philosophy and theology about the beginning of the world.

Nonnenmacher, Burkhard

Vernunft und Glaube bei Kant

Volume 20
2018. X, 425 pages.

ISBN 9783161557163
cloth 89,00 €

ISBN 9783161557170
eBook PDF 89,00 €

Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* denies »knowledge« in order to make »room for faith«. But how is this room to be shaped? According to Kant, by a »rational belief« which states the truth of some theoretical propositions only from a »practical point of view«, while for the theoretical use of reason these propositions have to remain undecided. Burkhard Nonnenmacher subjects Kant's determination of the relationship of faith and reason to a thorough analysis by explicating its relationship to the »Architectonic of Pure Reason«. In this context, Kant's central conclusions on fundamental theology are developed alongside his main decisions on dogmatics, with the latter paying special regard to Kant's *Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason*. The study calls into question whether Kant's determination of the relationship between sin, grace and justification as well as his positions concerning Christology, Ecclesiology and Eschatology have to be regarded as being without any alternative. Furthermore, it seeks methodological problems in Kant's approach and searches for the significance of these for systematic theology today.

Drews, Friedemann

Teilhabe-Ontologie und interreligiöser Dialog im Platonismus und Christentum

»Gott ist Richter mitten unter den Göttern« (Ps 82,1b). Monotheismus, Polytheismus und Teilhabe-Ontologie im Platonismus und Christentum, die Henaden bei Proklos und der interreligiöse Dialog bei Nikolaus von Kues

Volume 19
2018. XVI, 558 pages.

ISBN 9783161560514
cloth 129,00 €

ISBN 9783161560521
eBook PDF 129,00 €

In Antiquity and the Middle Ages, the Platonic ontology of participation reveals a specific potential for interreligious dialogue based on philosophical principles. Within the frame of his theorem of participation, Proclus' theory of henads finds a sound interpretation. The same theorem is used by Nicholas of Cusa in his *De pace fidei* in order to reconcile, for instance, the divergent perspectives on the Trinity in Islamic and Christian Thought.

Schole, Jan

Der Herr der Zeit

Ein Ewigkeitsmodell im Anschluss an Schellings Spätphilosophie und physikalische Modelle

Volume 18
2018. XIV, 297 pages.

ISBN 9783161557842
sewn paper 69,00 €

ISBN 9783161557859
eBook PDF 69,00 €

The eternity of God is God's power over time and his own relationship to time. He is able to alter this relationship: he can keep all times present to himself simultaneously or enter into the shift of times and experience change and temporality. This hypothesis is presented by Jan Schole at the beginning of his study, which aims to develop a model demonstrating that this concept of eternity is consistently conceivable. The building blocks and templates for this model are gathered from the analysis and interpretation of selected physical theories and Schelling's late philosophy. The author shows how his model allows for transitions between various temporal forms and relations, and thus how power over time, as hypothesized, can be reconstructed without contradiction.

Plevrakis, Ermylos

Das Absolute und der Begriff

Zur Frage philosophischer Theologie in Hegels »Wissenschaft der Logik«

Volume 17
2017. XVII, 439 pages.

ISBN 9783161550911
cloth 89,00 €

ISBN 9783161551161
eBook PDF 89,00 €

Why is it that theists and atheists alike believe to have found an ally in Hegel? Was it Hegel's intention to pay philosophical tribute to the Christian doctrine of the Trinity with his assertion that logic »is the exposition of God (...) in his eternal essence«, or did he instead wish to deal with a grotesque self-apotheosis of the human spirit? Ermylos Plevrakis attempts to reflect on all those parts of *The Science of Logic* featuring the terms 'God' or 'the Absolute', and shows that this work is capable of developing autonomously conceptions of absoluteness which logically underlie other metaphysical assertions. Accordingly, *Logic* does not render any further theism or atheism, but rather a foundational research on concepts preceding this dilemma, and finally leads not to ontotheology, but to the exposition of its own method: the epistemology of conceptual thinking.

König, Christian

Unendlich gebildet

Schleiermachers kritischer Religionsbegriff und seine inklusivistische Religionstheologie anhand der Erstaufgabe der Reden

Volume 16
2016. XIV, 492 pages.

ISBN 9783161548369
cloth 119,00 €

ISBN 9783161549021
eBook PDF 119,00 €

According to Schleiermacher, every religious person is immediately educated by the infinite. Based on his early theory of education, Christian König reveals the meaning of religion that Schleiermacher developed in his notorious 'Speeches' and demonstrates that his concept of religion is a critical one. According to this critical concept, religion is awarded an exceptional position in the ensemble of the human mind's powers. The author also presents the relevance of this for contemporary debates on religion, which includes the need for religious plurality and conveys a criterion for evaluating competing religious truth-claims. Overall, the author offers a thorough critical analysis of Schleiermacher's inclusivistic theory of religion.

König, Katrin

Begnadete Freiheit

Anselm von Canterburys Freiheitstheorie



Volume 15
2016. XII, 382 pages.

ISBN 9783161543845
sewn paper 69,00 €

ISBN 9783161543852
eBook PDF 69,00 €

What is freedom? Are humans free? And are God and human freedom compatible? These questions are raised by Anselm of Canterbury in his dialogues on freedom.

Katrin König interprets Anselm's theory of freedom in its theological and historical context and brings it into a dialogue with contemporary analytic theories of freedom. Thereby a qualitative concept of freedom as a gift towards the good is contributed: gifted freedom. According to this understanding, freedom is something greater than individual self-determination or choice between alternative possibilities. It is grounded in the perception of truth, unfolded in the love of justice and compatible with perfect determination by the action of God. In this horizon it is possible to discern the aporia of the modern debate on determinism and to reconcile seeming contradictions.

This work was awarded the Manfred Lautenschlaeger Award for Theological Promise 2017.

Halfwassen, Jens

Auf den Spuren des Einen

Studien zur Metaphysik und ihrer Geschichte

Volume 14
2015. X, 388 pages.

ISBN 9783161541636
eBook PDF 119,00 €

Jens Halfwassen presents a fresh look at metaphysics and its history, holding that the metaphysics of the One – as laid down by Plato and advanced in the Neo-Platonist tradition spanning from Plotinus to Nicholas of Cusa – is not only the historical foundation, but also the systematically unsurpassed culmination of metaphysical thought. The author also makes a case for its contemporary relevance by offering convincing answers to fundamental questions concerning the ground for the existence of the world, the absolute, the reality of the mind and freedom. He offers an in-depth analysis of Plato's metaphysics of the transcendent One which is conceptually accessible only in the form of a negative theology and deals with its most influential expressions from Plotinus up to Hegel and Schelling.

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Religion und Religionen im Deutschen Idealismus

Schleiermacher – Hegel – Schelling

Hrsg. v. Friedrich Hermanni, Burkhard Nonnenmacher u. Friedrike Schick

Volume 13
2015. IX, 592 pages.

ISBN 9783161541674
cloth 119,00 €

ISBN 9783161542213
eBook PDF 119,00 €

Schleiermacher, Hegel and Schelling are classics of modern philosophy of religion and contributed significantly to the discipline's very formation. Their works not only develop a general theory of religion and a special theory of Christian religion, but also dedicate themselves to the historical diversity of religions. Their attempts to adequately conceptualize this diversity undoubtedly pose a challenge to contemporary debates in philosophy, theology and religious studies, and also invite a re-examination of the debates' premises. For these three classics do not withdraw to a suspension of judgment, but rather take seriously the religions' divergent claims to truth and subject them to critical appraisal. Just how this is achieved is reconstructed and discussed in this volume by internationally renowned experts on Schleiermacher, Hegel and Schelling.

Dettinger, Frank

Radikale Selbstbestimmung

Eine Untersuchung zum Freiheitsverständnis bei Harry G. Frankfurt, Galen Strawson und Martin Luther

Volume 12
2015. VIII, 280 pages.

ISBN 9783161538476
sewn paper 64,00 €
ISBN 9783161539008
eBook PDF 64,00 €

Is radical self-determination relevant to the theory of freedom? In other words, is it a constitutive moment of freedom? And is radical self-determination possible or indeed real? Frank Dettinger understands radical self-determination as being the faculty of an acting subject – in whose personal and characteristic nature decisions and actions are established – to self-determine in an independent act. The author provides impetus not only for the analytical-philosophical, but also the theological freedom debates. In the first instance, his work is intended as a contribution to the understanding of the freedom debate about itself. Secondly, its objective seeks to demonstrate the potential of an inter-disciplinary approach. The author reconstructs Luther's understanding of freedom by the precise application of analytical-philosophical freedom systematics and in this way makes it accessible to argumentative examination.

Gasser, Andreas

Form und Materie bei Aristoteles

Vorarbeiten zu einer Interpretation der Substanzbücher

Volume 11
2015. IX, 346 pages.

ISBN 9783161536663
sewn paper 69,00 €
ISBN 9783161537158
eBook PDF 69,00 €

The concept of form makes up one of the central aspects of Aristotle's philosophy. For quite some time however there has been discord over just exactly what Aristotle wanted to have understood by this. The suggestions range from the identification of the form with the kind, right up to the assertion that they are on the contrary something individual, meaning that Socrates' form would be a different one to that of Plato. The focus of the dispute centers on the »Met. Z, H, Θ« books. Although the reason for this is well-founded (because the theory of form, and therefore Aristotle's ontology, reach their pinnacle therein), their prerequisite wealth is however often underestimated. Andreas Gasser thus attempts to trace the development of the concept of matter from the early category script up to its definitive modification through the introduction of the complementary subject of matter in the first Physics book and thereby to pave the way for a new interpretation of the Met. Z, H, Θ.

Spekulation und Vorstellung in Hegels enzyklopädischem System

Hrsg. v. Kazimir Drilo u. Axel Hutter

Volume 10
2015. VI, 261 pages.

ISBN 9783161537578
sewn paper 59,00 €
ISBN 9783161537585
eBook PDF 59,00 €

The relationship between speculation and imagination in Hegel's encyclopaedic system is characterized by a peculiar tension. Speculation is not only the critical purifying of the imagination's contents from its prejudices and errors, but is rather at the same time recognition of the finite, imaginative thinking within its limits, both in the field of epistemology and that of religion. How do speculation and imagination relate to one another in the various parts of the encyclopaedic system in the *Logic* and the *Philosophy of Mind*? The contributions in this conference volume examine in detail this correlation and critically assess the encyclopaedic interaction between speculation and imagination in the spheres of the subjective and the absolute spirit.

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Kazimir Drilo: Einleitung: Das Zusammenspiel von Spekulation und Vorstellung – *Markus Gabriel*: Hegels Begriff der Vorstellung und das Form-Inhalt-Problem – *Rainer Schäfer*: Von der Vorstellung zum Gedanken und zurück? Die Analyse von Namen und Gedächtnis in Hegels Psychologie – *Christian Georg Martin*: Semantische Bestimmtheit. Eine Hegelsche Perspektive – *Franz Knappik*: Hegel über Vorstellung und repräsentationalen Gehalt – *Gunnar Hindrichs*: Kategorienrahmen und Begriffswandel – *Christoph Halbig*: Vorstellung und Denken als epistemologische und als metaphysische Kategorien bei Hegel – *Anton Friedrich Koch*: Vorstellung und absoluter Geist – *Axel Hutter*: Hegels Lehre vom absoluten Geist – *Kazimir Drilo*: Religiöse Vorstellung und philosophische Erkenntnis – *Jan Rohls*: Christentum und Philosophie beim späten Hegel

Liu, Chun-Fa

Die metaphysische Grundlage der Kontroverse um den Kraftbegriff zwischen Descartes und Leibniz

Volume 9
2014. VIII, 178 pages.

ISBN 9783161526183
sewn paper 64,00 €
ISBN 9783161531019
eBook PDF 64,00 €

The controversy over the true nature of material beings in early modern times has had great influence on the subsequent development of natural science. One of the major discussions of the time was the dispute over the measure of force between the followers of Leibniz and Descartes. Today it is still often seen as a meaningless verbal dispute, since there are no empirical criteria for the mathematical formulation of force as a metaphysical concept. Chun-Fa Liu argues that these disagreements must be attributed to the metaphysical view of nature. The difference of opinion is not only in the evaluation of nature through mathematics but also in the understanding of the concept of force and thus the deep insight into the metaphysics of nature as a whole. In addition, the author argues that Leibniz has a much deeper understanding of nature and its metaphysical basis than the Cartesians do. Thus the controversy is not a meaningless verbal dispute but a metaphysically-based subject worthy of discussion.

Tegtmeyer, Henning

Gott, Geist, Vernunft

Prinzipien und Probleme der Natürlichen Theologie

Volume 8
2013. XIII, 391 pages.

ISBN 9783161525841
cloth 104,00 €

ISBN 9783161529214
eBook PDF 104,00 €

Natural theology is the philosophy of God's essence and existence. Philosophy without theology remains essentially incomplete. This is not just a time-honored commonplace philosophical conviction that can be traced back to Plato, it is also a genuine insight into what philosophy essentially is. Henning Tegtmeyer advocates a renewal of natural theology. His main argument is that questions and problems of natural theology are the unfinished tasks of thinking. The author discusses problems involved in a possible renewal of natural theology, including the theodicy dilemma and above all the relationship between natural theology and doctrinal revealed theology and the philosophy of religion as well as its place in a pluralistic understanding of religion and in an interreligious dialog.

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Wendte, Martin

Die Gabe und das Gestell

Luthers Metaphysik des Abendmahls im technischen Zeitalter

Volume 7
2013. XVI, 516 pages.

ISBN 9783161524004
sewn paper 74,00 €

ISBN 9783161524011
eBook PDF 74,00 €

Luther's theology of communion contains a comprehensive understanding of reality which presents reality as a whole as a good gift to mankind. This good gift is given to man in a bodily form. In communion, reality can be experienced as a bodily gift in an excellent way. In the main part of this habilitation treatise, Martin Wendte provides a detailed analysis of Luther's theology of communion, particularly in reference to the metaphysics with which it is imbued. In a second part, Wendte supports this metaphysics by referring to Hegel, Schelling and Koch. In a third part, Wendte deals with Luther's relevance by presenting an analysis of late modernity, based on Heidegger, as an age of technology. Luther's understanding of reality constitutes the antithesis to the understanding of reality in the age of technology.

Nonnenmacher, Burkhard

Hegels Philosophie des Absoluten

Eine Untersuchung zu Hegels »Wissenschaft der Logik« und reifem System

Volume 6
2013. XI, 165 pages.

ISBN 9783161521850
sewn paper 59,00 €
ISBN 9783161522956
eBook PDF 59,00 €

In the »Doctrine of Being«, Hegel demonstrates that the infinite cannot be abstractly opposed to the finite, but has to contain the finite if it is not to be just a finite itself. However this does not mean that only everything which is finite should be dissolved in the absolute, since otherwise the absolute would just be the »night in which all cows are black,« nor on the other hand can the finite itself be declared the infinite. Thus the difficult problem Hegel has to solve is to develop a model in which the absolute is neither abstractly opposed to the finite nor identified with it in a trivial manner. Burkhard Nonnenmacher shows how Hegel's »Science of Logic« and his mature system attempt to solve this problem.

Martin, Christian Georg

Ontologie der Selbstbestimmung

Eine operationale Rekonstruktion von Hegels »Wissenschaft der Logik«

Volume 5
2012. XIII, 692 pages.

ISBN 9783161520617
cloth 129,00 €
ISBN 9783161522949
eBook PDF 129,00 €

Hegel conceived his Science of Logic as a »theory of pure thinking« as well as a successor discipline to traditional metaphysics. Christian Georg Martin offers an argumentative reconstruction of the whole work, reading it as a »critical ontology«, namely as the attempt to abstract from all presuppositions and to immanently unfold conceptual determinations characterizing what necessarily belongs to there being anything at all. The reconstruction culminates in the conception of a physically, chemically and biologically characterizable continuum, being necessarily transformed by embodied subjects into a common, significant world, in which freedom has concrete reality.

Gottesbeweise als Herausforderung für die moderne Vernunft

Hrsg. v. Thomas Buchheim, Friedrich Hermann, Axel Hutter u. Christoph Schwöbel

Volume 4
2nd unchanged edition 2017.
XI, 630 pages.

ISBN 9783161552151
sewn paper 59,00 €
ISBN 9783161552168
eBook PDF 59,00 €

In view of the critique of religion in the 19th century and the critique of reason in the 20th century, the mere contraposition of *reason* and *religion* seems philosophically naive and historically unenlightened. Therefore the project of the theistic proofs which attempt to make the concept of God in its central status for religion accessible to philosophical argument appears in a new light. The authors of this volume examine, each in their own way, the traditional and the contemporary proofs for the existence of God with the objective of gaining a new understanding of reason and religion in their relationship.

Einheit und Vielheit als metaphysisches Problem

Hrsg. v. Johannes Brachtendorf u. Stephan Herzberg

Volume 3
2011. VI, 243 pages.

ISBN 9783161510335
sewn paper 44,00 €
ISBN 9783161517495
eBook PDF 44,00 €

Metaphysics sees itself as a theory of reality: In comparison to everything which presents itself to our senses or our everyday common sense as real, metaphysics would like to teach us, giving reasons, what it actually means to be real, how reality is constructed and what its fundamental structures are. In order to do so, in its classic form it is based on a first or a principle. This volume focuses on the dual terms of unity and plurality, which are pivotal for a principle-oriented metaphysics. Is all reality based on the one, or are plurality and otherness irresolvable? Does the logic of unity merely create a dialectic illusion? Or can unity be seen in a way which justifies plurality? The authors of the articles in this volume cover the main stations of the history of metaphysics, ranging from Parmenides to Lévinas.

Survey of contents

Johannes Brachtendorf / Stephan Herzberg: Einleitung: Die Metaphysik und das Problem von Einheit und Vielheit – *Emil Angehrn:* Einheit, Ganzheit, Identität. Zur Frühgeschichte des metaphysischen Denkens bei Parmenides – *Stephan Herzberg:* *Proshen-* Einheit und Analogie. Die Vielheit des Seienden und das ontologisch Primäre bei Aristoteles und Thomas von Aquin – *Jens Halfwassen:* Einheit und Vielheit bei Plotin. Das Eine als absoluter Grund der Vielheit – *Norbert Fischer:* Schöpfungslehre und Christologie in Augustins *Confessiones*. Zu systematischen Grundlagen der Fragen nach Einheit und Vielheit im Denken Augustins – *Markus Enders:* *Deus unus est*. Meister Eckharts Metaphysik der Einheit und ihr intellekttheoretisches Fundament – *Harald Schwaetzer:* Einheit und Vielheit als Problem des Partizipationsgedankens bei Nikolaus von Kues – *Jean Greisch:* Einheit und Vielheit – eine Herausforderung für die transzendente Dialektik – *Anton Friedrich Koch:* Hegel: Die Einheit des Begriffs – *Branko Klun:* Ontologische Totalität und ethische Differenz bei Lévinas – *Klaus Müller:* Aus der Logik der Subjektivität zur All-Einheit. Dieter Henrichs Weg zu einer Metaphysik bewussten Lebens

Nols, Carmen

Zeichenhafte Wirklichkeit

Realität als Ausdruck der kommunikativen Präsenz Gottes in der Theologie George Berkeleys

Volume 2
2011. IX, 305 pages.

ISBN 9783161507939
cloth 64,00 €

ISBN 9783161510892
eBook PDF 64,00 €

George Berkeley (1685–1753) is often seen as an exotic, since his thinking leads to a strict immaterialism. Carmen Nols uses the previously neglected theology of the Irish bishop as a basis for shedding a new light on his understanding of reality. Reality becomes visible as a cosmos of symbols which serves as a medium of God's self-revelation to mankind. God communicates with his creatures by using visual symbols and in this way establishes a relationship with them. This dynamic relationship can be described and spelled out as a permanent communication process with which is summarized in the well-known dictum *esse est percipi*. Based on this interpretation, the author reconstructs all of Berkeley's ontological and epistemological definitions and provides thought-provoking impulses for current philosophical and theological discourses.

Hermann, Friedrich

Metaphysik

Versuche über letzte Fragen

Volume 1
2nd unchanged edition 2017.
VIII, 251 pages.

ISBN 9783161552205
sewn paper 29,00 €

ISBN 9783161552861
eBook PDF 29,00 €

In a critical discourse with the history of metaphysics, the author attempts to answer questions such as: What is the reason for the existence and general features of the world, and what is this reason's relationship to the idea of God? What is the essence of human freedom, and what is the significance of the evil done by man and the evil that befalls him?

»Friedrich Hermann's [work] offers a well structured and internally coherent system that draws upon the continental and analytic traditions in the formation of answers to some of the primary questions of metaphysics, such as the existence of God [...], the understanding of death and resurrection and the question of truth in face of the plurality of religions.«
Paul Silas Peterson in *Neue Zeitschrift für Systematische Theologie und Religionsphilosophie* 55 (2013), pp. 526–538