

# Reality and Hermeneutics. Bonn Studies in the New Humanities

Edited by Elke Brendel, Philip Freytag, Markus Gabriel, Marion Gymnich, Birgit Ulrike Münch and Rainer Schäfer

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For quite some time it has been hard to avoid the conclusion that the kinds of knowledge produced in the humanities have suffered an increasing loss of authority. Taking this diagnosis as its starting point, the new book series *Reality and Hermeneutics* seeks to renew the authority of knowledge in the humanities through a revised concept of hermeneutic objectivity in the attempt of overcoming the conventional oppositions of reality and hermeneutics, explanation and understanding, the natural sciences on the one hand and the humanities and cultural studies on the other. In this spirit, the series offers a forum for contributions that understand the disciplines of the humanities in their diversity as a space for reflection on this kind of intellectual reality. As such, the series aims to facilitate productive exchange both within and between these disciplines. It also aims at drawing attention to phenomena that, due to being essentially interconnected with the natural sciences and technological developments, cannot be adequately described and reflected on by these disciplines alone.

The series is supported by the *Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Bonn*, in cooperation with *The Institute for Philosophy and the New Humanities, New School for Social Research, New York*, and the *East Asian Academy for the New Liberal Arts, University of Tokyo*.

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## Wirklichkeit/Fiktion

### Spannungsfelder eines Verhältnisses

Herausgegeben von Markus Gabriel, Marion Gymnich und Birgit Ulrike Münch

2024. Approx. 310 pages.  
forthcoming in April

ISBN 9783161620096  
hardcover approx. 80,00 €

ISBN 9783161620102  
eBook PDF approx. 80,00 €

Reality and fiction are basic ontological categories, but they are not only subjects for philosophy. Theorizing in various fields of the humanities has developed an understanding of these categories and has put them in a dynamic relationship. The articles in this volume investigate the synchronic and diachronic variation in their relationship.

#### Survey of contents

*Elke Brendel*: Wie wichtig ist es, ein authentisches Leben zu führen? Philosophische Betrachtungen zu Robert Nozicks Gedankenexperiment der Erlebnismaschine – *Ulrich Ettinger*: Reality Monitoring: Psychological and Neuroscientific Approaches – *Markus Gabriel*: Der verschränkte Mensch – Die Wirklichkeit der Fiktion und die Fiktion der Wirklichkeit – *Charlotte Gauvry*: Phenomenal Reports as a Fiction Pump. What if Illusionism is Partly Right? – *Marion Gymnich*: Fictions of the Future of Humankind – *Julia Hegewald*: Religious Realities, Artistic Representations of Jaina Cosmography – *Tobias Keiling*: Offenheit als epistemische Tugend – *Christine Krüger*: Mexikanisches Kaiserreich – *Christian Moser*: Wirklichkeit und Fiktion in der autobiographischen Erinnerung: Goethes Dichtung und Wahrheit als Fallbeispiel – *Gernot Müller*: Kreative Biographien. Poetische Lebensentwürfe in der lateinischen Liebeslyrik des italienischen Quattrocento – *Birgit Ulrike Münch*: The sick self. Some reflections on the self-making of the diseased body as 'real portrait fiction' – *Cornelia Richter*: 'Fürchte dich nicht!' Zur Hermeneutik der performativen Kraft religiöser Fiktionen – *Rainer Schäfer*: 'Wer hat Angst vorm Werwolf?' Fingierende Akte, Phantasie und Bildbewusstsein bei Husserl – *Jens Schröter*: Fictional Infrastructures – *Lina Steiner*: Victory Over the Sun. Victor Pelevin's Posthumanist Imagination – *Eva Stubenrauch/Johannes Lehmann*: Tatsachen und Fiktionen, Diskurs und Begriff – *Claudia Wich-Reif*: (Be-)Deutungen von Wirklichkeit und Fiktion  
Wirklichkeit und Fiktion sind ontologische Grundkategorien, aber nicht nur Sache der Philosophie. Auch die Theoriebildung verschiedener Geisteswissenschaften entwickelt ein Verständnis dieser Kategorien und setzt sie in ein Verhältnis. Dieses Verhältnis ist spannungsvoll: Kulturelle Phänomene zeugen von der Trennung und Hierarchisierung ebenso wie von Versuchen der Auflösung, Verschiebung oder der Verwechslung beider Kategorien. Dieser Band eröffnet ein Gespräch der Geistes- und Kulturwissenschaften über Phänomene und Theoriefiguren, in denen Wirklichkeit und Fiktion sich begegnen, verschränken, überlagern und modifizieren. Anstatt das Wirkliche und das Fiktive theoretisch zu isolieren, gilt es, sie in ihrem Wechselspiel zu beschreiben. Anstatt das Wirkliche und das Fiktive theoretisch zu isolieren, geht es in den vorliegenden Beiträgen darum, sie in ihrem Wechselspiel und ihrer oszillierenden Relation zueinander zu beschreiben.

#### Mit Beiträgen von:

*Elke Brendel, Ulrich Ettinger, Markus Gabriel, Charlotte Gauvry, Marion Gymnich, Julia Hegewald, Tobias Keiling, Christine Krüger, Johannes Lehmann, Christian Moser, Gernot Müller, Birgit Ulrike Münch, Cornelia Richter, Rainer Schäfer, Jens Schröter, Lina Steiner, Eva Stubenrauch, Claudia Wich-Reif*

## Images and Stories of the Origins of the World and of Humankind

Edited by Julia A. B. Hegewald and Marion Gymnich

2024. Approx. 610 pages.  
forthcoming in June

ISBN 9783161627361  
hardcover approx. 130,00 €

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Creation stories about the origins of the world and humankind are among the oldest narratives known in many parts of the world. Not only texts but also many works of art and architecture depict the various stages of creation. While not scientifically accurate, these myths and images of the beginnings of Earth and of life on it have played an important role in shaping cultural knowledge and traditions.

In this volume, eighteen experts on the history of art and architecture, anthropology, religious, textual and literary studies focus on traditional creation mythologies associated with regions in South Asia, China, Japan, Greece, the Near and Middle East, the Islamic world, and South America as well as on North American indigenous traditions. By juxtaposing these with modern and contemporary literary approaches to the subject, novel connections and parallels are revealed for the first time.

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*Julia A.B. Hegewald/Marion Gymnich*: Introduction: Images and Stories of the Origins of the World and of Humankind in Traditional and Modern Contexts – *Julia A.B. Hegewald*: Prevalent Themes and Motifs in Traditional Creation Mythology – *Robert J. Del Bontà*: Cyclic Indic Creations – *Satyana Kichenassamy*: An Indian Critique of the Notion of Absolute Beginning – *Sandra Jasmin Schlage*: The Impact of Naṭarāja's Drum: Visualisation of Naṭarāja's role as creator through the architecture and iconographic programme of the Naṭarāja Temple in Chidambaram – *Julia A.B. Hegewald*: Reflections of the Origins of the World in the Water Architecture of South Asia – *Gerrit Lange*: Creating a Landscape through Myths: The Journey of Naiṇī or Nāginā Devī, a Nine-fold Western Himalayan Hindu Goddess – *Claudia Wenzel*: Visual Modes of Chinese Cosmogonies – *Hannah Weber*: Creation in the Kojiki and Nihongi and Hesiod's Theogony: Yin and Yang and Divine Parentage – *Ralf Krumeich*: Succession of Divine Generations and Multiple Creations of Human Beings: Conceptions and Images of the Origins of the World and Humankind in Ancient Greece – *Fritz Graf*: From Ovid to Gregory of Nazianzus: A Hermetic Creation Story and Its Tradition – *Samantha Reilly*: Creatio-Ex-Mud: The Shape of Clay Creation in the Ancient Near East – *Julio César Cárdenas Arenas*: Narratives of Monotheistic Creation between Islamic Philosophy (falsafah) and Ibn Taymiyah – *Christine Schirrmacher*: The Creation of the World and the Creation of Man: Apologetic Argument for the Equality of Women in Feminist Qur'ānic Exegesis – *Daniel Grana-Behrens*: The Cultural Foundations of the Sixteenth-Century Popol Vuh 'Preamble' Addressing the Origin of the World and Humankind, and their Relation to the Classic Period of the Maya (300–1000 CE) – *Athira Mohan*: Creation Myth as a Decolonising Strategy Reading Selected Retellings of Indian and Canadian Indigenous Myth of Creation – *Marion Gymnich/Klaus Scheunemann*: Humanity and its Others: (Post-Darwinist) Stories of the Origins of Humankind – *Stefan Lampadius*: Evolving Origins and the Artificial Human in Science Fiction – *Constanze Wessel*: Creation Myths as Part of Fantasy World-Building: The Case of Tolkien's Powers of Arda in *The Silmarillion*



# Realismus und Idealismus in der gegenwärtigen Philosophie

Herausgegeben von Jocelyn Benoist, Markus Gabriel und Jens Rometsch

Volume 6  
2024. 220 pages.  
forthcoming in May

ISBN 9783161620225  
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ISBN 9783161620232  
eBook PDF approx. 70,00 €

In this volume, French, German and Italian authors continue the dialogue between realism and idealism in contemporary philosophy from the perspective of history, epistemology, phenomenology, and aesthetics.

Survey of contents

*Jean-François Kervégan*: Zwischen Idealität und Realität: Die Position des Begriffs in Hegels Prima Philosophia – *Emmanuel Cattin*: Hegel und die Mysterien des Realen – *Markus Gabriel*: Was existiert nicht? – *Thomas Buchheim*: Realismus diesseits von alt und neu: Überlegungen zur ontologischen Statur des Realen – *Jocelyn Benoist*: Der Realismus und der systematische Ort des Subjekts – *Renaud Barbaras*: Zugehörigkeit und Subjektivität – *Eva Schürmann*: Was heißt »die Sache selbst«, wenn es das »Ding an sich« nicht gibt? Über die vergessene Vermittlung – *Anton Friedrich Koch*: Ist der hermeneutische Realismus ein dialektischer Materialismus? Heidegger und Adorno weiterdenken – *Pauline Nadrigny*: »Die Dinge nur sagen, nur auf ihre Stelle zeigen, sie nur erscheinen lassen«: Jaccottet als realistischer Dichter – *Andrea Kern*: Wie man es schafft, keine Naive Realistin zu sein: Über Wissen und Wahrnehmung – *David Zaperò*: Zur Wirklichkeit und Objektivität des Imaginären – *Jens Rometsch*: Idealistisch-realistische Fallstudie zur Frage der Freiheit – *Maurizio Ferraris*: Metaphysik des Internet  
Unverkennbar gibt es seit einigen Jahren in der Philosophie Europas wieder ein programmatisches Bekenntnis zum Realismus. Es ist das Resultat einer am Ende des zwanzigsten Jahrhunderts fällig gewordenen Korrektur. Gleichzeitig lässt sich auch eine Renaissance idealistischer Denkansätze feststellen. Dieser Band vereinigt französische, deutsche und italienische Autorinnen und Autoren, die den Dialog zwischen Realismus und Idealismus aus historischer, erkenntnistheoretischer, phänomenologischer und ästhetischer Perspektive fortsetzen. Dieser Dialog, so zeigt sich, dient nach wie vor zur philosophischen Orientierung.

Mit Beiträgen von:

*Renaud Barbaras, Jocelyn Benoist, Thomas Buchheim, Emmanuel Cattin, Maurizio Ferraris, Markus Gabriel, Andrea Kern, Jean-François Kervégan, Anton Friedrich Koch, Pauline Nadrigny, Jens Rometsch, Eva Schürmann, David Zaperò*

Schreiber, Markus

## Die Dialektik des Realismus

Eine systematisch-historische Analyse

Volume 5  
2024. XII, 304 pages.

ISBN 9783161626517  
hardcover 89,00 €  
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eBook PDF 89,00 €

'Realism' is contrasted by its supposed opponent, anti-realism. Markus Schreiber's critical inquiry deals with selected realisms – from the problem of universals to the new realism of the present. What becomes apparent is that debates about realistic philosophy ought to be conducted beyond the boundaries of the dualism between realism and anti-realism or idealism.

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Genovesi, Sergio

## Ereignis und Erfahrung

Entwurf eines empirischen Realismus des Ereignisses in Auseinandersetzung mit Claude Romanos

Ereignishermeneutik



Mohr Siebeck

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Volume 4  
2023. XI, 258 pages.

ISBN 9783161619236  
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eBook PDF 79,00 €

In this book, Sergio Genovesi develops an »Empirical Realism of Events«. He claims that events are ontologically distinct from both processes and facts, as they are changes that are consciously perceived by a subject and only exist within the realm of experience.

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Bibliographie

Castro, Ernesto

## Postcontinental Realism

### Ontology and Epistemology for the Twenty-First Century

Translated from Spanish by Natalia Baižan and Manuel Antonio Castro Córdoba

Volume 3  
2022. XXII, 320 pages.

ISBN 9783161618833  
hardcover 69,00 €

ISBN 9783161618840  
eBook PDF

Is philosophy still alive? Are there any alternatives to univocal postmodernist thought? Is there any point in asking age-old questions about the existence of reality and the possibility of knowledge, about being (ontology) and knowing (epistemology)? In this book, Ernesto Castro issues a resounding yes to these and many other questions plaguing philosophy today. »Postcontinental realism« is the term coined by Castro to designate a group of realist thinkers who have overcome contemporary philosophy's time-honored division between the analytic tradition (concerned with epistemological and scientific questions) and the continental tradition (concerned with artistic and ontological questions). Written in a perfectly plain style that is accessible to readers from all walks of life, including those without a previous academic education, the author introduces the readers to the works and ideas of important, living philosophers such as Quentin Meillassoux, Ray Brassier, Graham Harman, Iain Hamilton Grant, Maurizio Ferraris, or Markus Gabriel. Published with the support of Fundación Sicomoro.

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Foreword by José Luis Villacañas

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Ferraris, Maurizio

## Doc-Humanity

Translated by Sarah De Sanctis

Volume 2  
2022. XXII, 343 pages.

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However you view the present time, it is a new century, a new world, and also a new humanity – in fact, humanity is not something that was ever defined once and for all, but remains an open project. For several decades we have been witnessing a revolution. However, unlike the political and ideological revolutions that took place around the First World War, this is a technological and much more radical one that does not depend on people's beliefs, but rather on the tireless labour of machines. The rise of automation has brought about a revelation of something that had hitherto remained hidden in the workshops of *homo faber*. That is, there are very few functions, apart from consumption, where a machine cannot replace a human being, be these material or spiritual – machines need energy, but they can also do without it, whereas humans die if deprived of it, or one can imagine a machine producing symphonies, but not enjoying them. So while human beings are still needed, their roles and scopes have to be reconsidered. Workers may be superfluous, but humans are still needed, including those who until recently only recognised themselves as producers. The exclusion of workers from production does not discount humans being able to produce value in the form of consumption. Recognising this will enable us to conceive the »Webfare« – a new digital system that will teach us to find new names and new forms, more tolerance and room for traditional human needs. Above all, it will teach us how to transform the time given to us by automation into an opportunity for progress.

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The time has come to stop thinking of the future as a projection of the past. The technological revolution has brought us into a new ecosystem, forcing the questions: Who are we? Where did we come from? Where are we going? The Web is the largest recording apparatus humanity has developed, and this explains the importance of the changes it has produced. Although more than one in two individuals do not yet own a cell phone, the number of connected devices is 23 billion: more than three times the world's population. This connectedness produces more socially relevant objects than all the factories in the world – an immense amount of acts, contacts, transactions and traces encoded in 2.5 quintillion bytes. That is why understanding the true nature of the Web is the first step toward understanding the revolution underway, which generates a new world, a new capital, and a new humanity: doc-humanity.

Benoist, Jocelyn

## Von der Phänomenologie zum Realismus

### Die Grenzen des Sinns

Volume 1  
2022. XXIV, 177 pages.

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There is no such thing as a realistic phenomenology. In this line of thought, Jocelyn Benoist here presents the sum of his previous works, which have led him further and further away from phenomenology – towards a contextual realism that emphasises the inevitability of the real: reality is not a property that can or cannot be assigned to the meaningful. Rather, it is something that is always already there, that we ever already have. Nevertheless, it is precisely this prejudice in favour of meaning that has dominated philosophy since Kant's transcendental turn. Benoist therefore attacks the phenomenology of Husserl and Heidegger and their reception in France as well as the »new realism« of Markus Gabriel, whose ontology of the »fields of sense« he finds conflating being and sense. Benoist's monograph thus revives the dialogue between contemporary philosophy in France and Germany. At the same time, this volume exemplifies the ambition that the new series *Reality and Hermeneutics* ascribes to the humanities and cultural studies, liberating them from a misleading opposition to the natural sciences.

