

EARLY MODERN WOMEN ON METAPHYSICS

The work of women philosophers in the early modern period has traditionally been overlooked, yet their writing on topics such as reality, time, mind and matter holds valuable lessons for our understanding of metaphysics and its history. This volume of new essays explores the work of nine key female figures: Bathsua Reginald Makin, Anna Maria van Schurman, Elisabeth of Bohemia, Margaret Cavendish, Anne Conway, Damaris Cudworth Masham, Mary Astell, Catharine Trotter Cockburn and Émilie Du Châtelet. Investigating issues from eternity to free will and from body to natural laws, the essays uncover long-neglected perspectives and demonstrate their importance for philosophical debates, both then and now. Combining careful philosophical analysis with discussion of the intellectual and historical context of each thinker, they will set the agenda for future enquiry and will appeal to scholars and students of the history of metaphysics, science, religion and feminism.

EMILY THOMAS is Assistant Professor in Philosophy at Durham University. She has published numerous articles on metaphysics in the history of philosophy, and on historical women philosophers. She is an editor at the *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*.

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EDITED BY
EMILY THOMAS
Durham University



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Contributors

DEBORAH BOYLE is Professor of Philosophy at the College of Charleston

KATHERINE BRADING is Professor of Philosophy at Duke University

JACQUELINE BROAD is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Monash University, Melbourne

DAVID CUNNING is Professor and Collegiate Scholar and also Chair of the Philosophy Department at the University of Iowa

KAREN DETLEFSEN is Professor of Philosophy and Education at the University of Pennsylvania

SARAH HUTTON is Honorary Visiting Professor of Philosophy at the University of York

SUSAN JAMES is Professor of Philosophy at Birkbeck College, University of London

ANDREW JANIAK is Professor and Chair of Philosophy at Duke University, where he co-leads Project Vox

FREDERIQUE JANSSEN-LAURET is Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Manchester

MARCY P. LASCANO is Professor of Philosophy at California State University, Long Beach

PATRICIA SHERIDAN is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Guelph

EMILY THOMAS is Assistant Professor in Philosophy at Durham University

SARA L. UCKELMAN is Assistant Professor in Logic at Durham University

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