

Essays on Heidegger and others



Essays on Heidegger and others

Philosophical papers

VOLUME 2

RICHARD RORTY

University Professor of Humanities University of Virginia





CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521353700

© Cambridge University Press 1991

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1991 Reprinted 1991 (twice), 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1999

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN-13 978-0-521-35369-4 hardback (volume 1) ISBN-10 0-521-35369-6 hardback (volume 1)

ISBN-13 978-0-521-35877-4 paperback (volume 1) ISBN-10 0-521-35877-9 paperback (volume 1)

ISBN-13 978-0-521-35370-0 hardback (volume 2) ISBN-10 0-521-35370-X hardback (volume 2)

ISBN-13 978-0-521-35878-1 paperback (volume 2) ISBN-10 0-521-35878-7 paperback (volume 2)

Transferred to digital printing 2005



To Kevin



Contents

Acknowledgments	page ix
Introduction: Pragmatism and post-Nietzschean philosophy	I
Part I	
Philosophy as science, as metaphor, and as politics	9
Heidegger, contingency, and pragmatism	27
Wittgenstein, Heidegger, and the reification of language	50
Heidegger, Kundera, and Dickens	66
Part II	
Deconstruction and circumvention	85
Two meanings of "logocentrism": A reply to Norris	107
Is Derrida a transcendental philosopher?	119
De Man and the American Cultural Left	129
Part III	
Freud and moral reflection	143
Habermas and Lyotard on postmodernity	164
Unger, Castoriadis, and the romance of a national future	177
Moral identity and private autonomy: The case of Foucault	193
Index of names	199



Acknowledgments

"Philosophy as Science, as Metaphor, and as Politics" was a contribution to a symposium held at the University of Vienna in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Husserl's Krisis der Europäischen Wissenschaften. A German translation was published in Die Krise der Phänomenologie und die Pragmatik des Wissenschaftsfortschritts, Michael Benedikt and Rudolf Burger, eds. (Vienna: Verlag der Österreichischen Staatsdruckerei, 1986), pp. 138–149. A revised and enlarged version of the English original (the version reprinted here) appeared in The Institution of Philosophy, Avner Cohen and Marcello Dascal, eds. (La Salle: Open Court, 1989), pp. 13–33.

"Heidegger, Contingency, and Pragmatism" is published here for the first time. It will also appear in *Reading Heidegger*, Hubert Dreyfus and Harrison Hall, eds. (Oxford: Blackwell, forthcoming). It includes passages from "Heidegger wider den Pragmatisten," *Neue Hefte für Philosophie* 23 (1984), pp. 1–22. The latter was a version of a lecture given at Haverford College, and has appeared only in German translation.

"Wittgenstein, Heidegger, and the Reification of Language" was a contribution to a symposium celebrating the 100th birthdays of Heidegger and Wittgenstein held at the J. W. Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt am Main, in April 1989. It has not previously been published in English, but will appear also in *The Cambridge Companion to Heidegger*, Charles Guignon, ed. (forthcoming).

"Heidegger, Kundera, and Dickens" was given as a lecture at the Sixth East-West Philosophers' Conference, held at the University of Hawaii in August 1989. It will appear in the proceedings of that conference.

"Deconstruction and Circumvention" began as a lecture called "Now that we have deconstructed metaphysics, do we have to deconstruct literature too?" given at the Summer School of Criticism and Theory held at Northwestern University in 1983. A revised version was published in *Critical Inquiry* 11 (September 1984), pp. 1–23. It is reprinted by permission of The University of Chicago Press.

"Two Meanings of 'Logocentrism' " was written in reply to Christopher Norris's "Philosophy as Not Just a 'Kind of Writing': Derrida and the Claim of Reason," which was partly in response to "Philosophy as a Kind of Writing" (included in my Consequences of Pragmatism). Norris's essay and my reply were published in Redrawing the Lines: Analytic Philosophy, Deconstruction and Literary Theory, Reed Way Dasenbrock, ed. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1989), pp. 204–216.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

"Is Derrida a Transcendental Philosopher?" appeared in Yale Journal of Criticism, April 1989. It is reprinted here by permission.

"De Man and the American Cultural Left" is a revised version of the last of three Romanell Lectures given at the University of Virginia in January 1989. It borrows some paragraphs from my "Two Cheers for the Cultural Left," *South Atlantic Quarterly* 89, pp. 227–234, and some others from my "Deconstruction," in *The Cambridge History of Literary Criticism*, vol. 8 (forthcoming).

"Freud and Moral Reflection" was given in 1984 as an Edith Weigert Memorial Lecture at the Forum for Psychiatry and the Humanities in Washington, D.C. It appeared in *Pragmatism's Freud: The Moral Disposition of Psychoanalysis*, Joseph H. Smith and William Kerrigan, eds. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986), pp. 1–27.

"Habermas and Lyotard on Postmodernity" appeared in *Praxis International* 4 (April 1984), pp. 32-44. It is reprinted here by permission.

"Unger, Castoriadis, and the Romance of a National Future" appeared in Northwestern University Law Review 82 (Winter 1988), pp. 335-351. It is reprinted here by permission.

"Moral Identity and Private Autonomy: The Case of Foucault" was given at a conference in memory of Foucault, organized by François Ewald and held in Paris in January 1988. It appeared in French translation in the proceedings of this conference: *Michel Foucault Philosophe: Rencontre Internationale* (Paris: Éditions du Seuil, 1989), pp. 385–394. A slightly curtailed version of the English original was published as "Foucault/Dewey/Nietzsche" in *Raritan* 4 (Spring 1990), pp. 1–8.

I am grateful to the organizers of the conferences, institutes, and symposia at which these papers were presented, and to the publishers of the various journals and collections in which they appeared. I should also like to express my continuing gratitude to the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The majority of the papers in this and the previous volume were written while I held a MacArthur Fellowship.