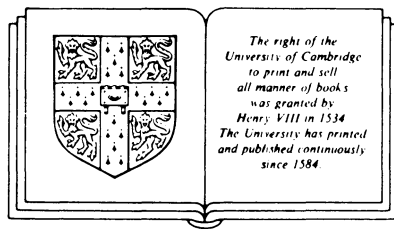


Cambridge University Press  
978-0-521-35735-7 - Contemporary French Philosophy  
Edited by A. Phillips Griffiths  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

# Contemporary French Philosophy

EDITED BY

A. Phillips Griffiths



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

CAMBRIDGE NEW YORK  
NEW ROCHELLE MELBOURNE SYDNEY

Cambridge University Press  
 978-0-521-35735-7 - Contemporary French Philosophy  
 Edited by A. Phillips Griffiths  
 Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

**CAMBRIDGE**  
 UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521357357](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521357357)

© The Royal Institute of Philosophy 1987

This publication 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 1987

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

*Library of Congress Catalogue Card Number: 88-20254*

*Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data*

Contemporary French philosophy/edited by A. Phillips Griffiths. p. cm.—(Royal Institute of Philosophy lecture series: 21) "Supplement to Philosophy 1987."

Includes index.

ISBN 0-521-35735-7 (pbk.)

1. Philosophy. French—20th century. I. Griffiths, A. Phillips. II. Philosophy (London, England) III. Series: Royal Institute of Philosophy lectures: 21.

B2421.C65 1987

88-20254

194—dc 19

CIP

ISBN 978-0-521-35735-7 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

## Contents

Preface	v
Continental Insularity: Contemporary French Analytical Philosophy PASCAL ENGEL	1
The Misprision of Pragmatics: Conceptions of Language in Contemporary French Philosophy J. J. LECERCLE	21
Ants and Women, or Philosophy without Borders MICHÈLE LE DŒUFF	41
Motifs towards a Poetics MICHEL DEGUY	55
The Relevance of Cartesianism VINCENT CARRAUD	69
The Enlightenment without the Critique: A Word on Michel Serres' Philosophy BRUNO LATOUR	83
The Teleological and Deontological Structures of Action: Aristotle and/or Kant? PAUL RICOEUR	99
The Crisis of the Post-modern Image RICHARD KEARNEY	113
Merleau-Ponty and the Phenomenology of Perception CYRIL BARRETT	123
Epistemological History: The Legacy of Bachelard and Canguilhem MARY TILES	141
History as Genealogy: An Exploration of Foucault's Approach to History ELIE GEORGES NOUJAIN	157
Beyond Deconstruction? DAVID WOOD	175
Further Adventures of the Dialectic: Merleau-Ponty, Sartre, Althusser GREGORY ELLIOTT	195

Cambridge University Press  
978-0-521-35735-7 - Contemporary French Philosophy  
Edited by A. Phillips Griffiths  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

## Contents

Paradoxes of the Pineal: From Descartes to Georges Bataille DAVID FARRELL KRELL	215
Notes on Contributors	229
Index	231

## Preface

These lectures delivered at the Royal Institute of Philosophy cannot, even in the case of the first seven by French philosophers, be regarded as representative of French philosophy. That is however necessarily so, since nothing can be representative of contemporary French philosophy except contemporary French philosophy itself. They do, however, reflect one of the characteristics of French philosophy which underlies this: its great diversity. The essays by Pascal Engel, Michèle Le Doeuff, and Bruno Latour suggest explanations.

We are very deeply indebted to philosophers on both sides of the Channel for advice on possible contributors to this volume. Above all, from the beginning we were immensely helped and guided by Rev. Professor Marcel Regnier, SJ, editor of *Archives de Philosophie*. He was to have opened the series, but to our great regret this was prevented by his failing health. We are also deeply grateful to Mr Alan Montefiore, of Balliol College, for his advice and for his chairing many of the lectures.

These philosophers are not, however, responsible for the final composition of the volume. Many were chosen, but few would be called; and of these, a few had to cancel their acceptance at short notice. This was not an unallayed misfortune. Dr Kearney, Dr Elliott, and Dr Krell gave us their splendid papers in their stead, and we are most grateful to them.