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Searle and Foucault on Truth

This book compares John Searle's and Michel Foucault's radically opposed views on truth in order to demonstrate the need for invigorating cross-fertilization between the analytic and Continental philosophical traditions. By pressing beyond familiar clichés about analytic philosophy and postmodernism, C. G. Prado shows that a surprising convergence of Searle's and Foucault's views on truth emerges. The analytic impression of Foucault is of a radical relativist whose views on truth entail linguistic idealism or denial of the objective world. Searle himself has contributed to this impression through his aggressive critique of postmodern thinkers, especially Derrida. Prado's book lays this misperception to rest. He shows analytic philosophers that Foucault's ideas about truth are defensible and merit serious attention, and he also demonstrates to Continental philosophers that Searle's ideas about truth cannot be ignored. Further, he shows that Foucault not only is as much a realist as John Searle but also is much closer than many imagine to Donald Davidson, a model analytic thinker.

C. G. Prado is Professor Emeritus in the Philosophy Department at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. A recipient of grants and fellowships from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the Canada Council, and Queen's University, he is the author and editor of many articles and books, including *A House Divided: Comparing Analytic and Continental Philosophy* and *Starting with Foucault: An Introduction to Genealogy*.

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

Cambridge University Press
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521855235

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First published 2006

Printed in the United States of America

A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Prado, C. G.
Searle and Foucault on truth / C. G. Prado.
p. cm.
Includes bibliographical references and index.
ISBN 0-521-85523-3 – ISBN 0-521-67133-7 (pbk.)
1. Searle, John R. 2. Foucault, Michel. 3. Truth. I. Title.
B1649.S264P73 2006
121'.092'2–dc22 2005006332

ISBN-13 978-0-521-85523-5 hardback
ISBN-10 0-521-85523-3 hardback
ISBN-13 978-0-521-67133-0 paperback
ISBN-10 0-521-67133-7 paperback

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Once more, for Catherine

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Acknowledgments

My thanks to John Searle and Wallace Matson for their e-mail responses to my questions, some of which I quote in this book. I had the privilege of having both for undergraduate and graduate professors, and now I must add their help with this project to the intellectual debt I owe them.

My thanks also to the late Terence Moore, my first contact at Cambridge University Press, and to Beatrice Rehl, who made it all work.

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