

RELIGION AFTER METAPHYSICS

How should we understand religion, and what place should it hold, in an age in which metaphysics has come into disrepute? The metaphysical assumptions which supported traditional theologies are no longer widely accepted, but it is not clear how this “end of metaphysics” should be understood, or what implications it ought to have for our understanding of religion. At the same time there is renewed interest in the sacred and the divine in disciplines as varied as philosophy, psychology, literature, history, anthropology, and cultural studies. In this volume, leading philosophers in the United States and Europe address the decline of metaphysics and the space which this decline has opened for non-theological understandings of religion. The contributors are Richard Rorty, Charles Taylor, Jean-Luc Marion, Gianni Vattimo, Hubert L. Dreyfus, Robert Pippin, John D. Caputo, Adriaan Peperzak, Leora Batnitzky, and Mark A. Wrathall.

MARK A. WRATHALL is Associate Professor at the Department of Philosophy, Brigham Young University, Utah. He has published articles in a number of journals and has contributed to books in the Cambridge Companions to Philosophy series. He is co-editor of *Appropriating Heidegger* (2000), *Heidegger, Authenticity, and Modernity* (2000), and *Heidegger, Coping, and Cognitive Science* (2000).

Cambridge University Press
0521824982 - Religion after Metaphysics
Edited by Mark A. Wrathall
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

RELIGION AFTER METAPHYSICS

EDITED BY
MARK A. WRATHALL



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Contents

<i>List of contributors</i>	<i>page</i> vi
<i>Preface</i>	vii
1 Introduction: metaphysics and onto-theology <i>Mark A. Wrathall</i>	1
2 Love and death in Nietzsche <i>Robert Pippin</i>	7
3 After onto-theology: philosophy between science and religion <i>Gianni Vattimo</i>	29
4 Anti-clericalism and atheism <i>Richard Rorty</i>	37
5 Closed world structures <i>Charles Taylor</i>	47
6 Between the earth and the sky: Heidegger on life after the death of God <i>Mark A. Wrathall</i>	69
7 Christianity without onto-theology: Kierkegaard's account of the self's movement from despair to bliss <i>Hubert L. Dreyfus</i>	88
8 Religion after onto-theology? <i>Adriaan Peperzak</i>	104
9 The experience of God and the axiology of the impossible <i>John D. Caputo</i>	123
10 Jewish philosophy after metaphysics <i>Leora Batnitzky</i>	146
11 The "end of metaphysics" as a possibility <i>Jean-Luc Marion</i>	166
<i>Index</i>	190

Contributors

LEORA BATNITZKY, Princeton University
JOHN D. CAPUTO, Villanova University
HUBERT L. DREYFUS, University of California – Berkeley
JEAN-LUC MARION, Université de Paris I – Sorbonne
ADRIAAN PEPPERZAK, Loyola University Chicago
ROBERT PIPPIN, University of Chicago
RICHARD RORTY, Stanford University
CHARLES TAYLOR, McGill University
GIANNI VATTIMO, University of Turin
MARK A. WRATHALL, Brigham Young University

Cambridge University Press
0521824982 - Religion after Metaphysics
Edited by Mark A. Wrathall
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Preface

I would like to thank Julie Lund, Andy West, Katie Treharne, James Olsen, and James Faulconer for their invaluable help in the preparation of the typescript of this book. Many people and entities at Brigham Young University contributed time and resources in support of the conference out of which this volume has grown. I am indebted in particular to Alan Wilkins, Van Gessel, Ron Woods, Dennis Rasmussen, Andrew Skinner, and Katie Treharne for their contributions to the conference. It was Bert Dreyfus who provided the inspiration for this project, and I am grateful to him for the many conversations and correspondences we have had on the subject.