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978-0-521-88520-1 - The Philosophy of Simone de Beauvoir: Ambiguity, Conversion, Resistance

Penelope Deutscher

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THE PHILOSOPHY OF SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR

Many studies of Simone de Beauvoir have concentrated on her literature, her life, and her famous 1949 work *The Second Sex*. *The Philosophy of Simone de Beauvoir* places Beauvoir's theory of women's "otherness" in the context of a number of contemporary theories of ambiguity. Professor Deutscher reconsiders the resources on which Beauvoir drew and the innovation involved in their transformation to her purposes.

The focus given to Beauvoir's philosophy on gender and thus to her earliest work has overlooked the transformations she effected to her own concepts of ambiguity, reciprocity, and ethics as she considered different modes of otherness. Gender was just one of a number of these, and this book counterbalances its grip on our memory of her work, by situating gender in the context of ageing, generational difference, embodied time, and race. By differentiating these aspects of otherness, Beauvoir revisited some of the concepts of reciprocity and ethics for which she is best remembered.

PENELOPE DEUTSCHER is Professor of Philosophy at Northwestern University. Previous to this role, she taught in the Department of Philosophy at the Australian National University. She is the author of several books in the areas of twentieth-century French philosophy and philosophy of gender.

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Penelope Deutscher

Frontmatter

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Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page</i> ix
Introduction: Simone de Beauvoir's Conversions	i
1 Conversions of Ambiguity	19
2 American Bad Faith	59
3 Conversions of Repetition	94
4 Conversions of Alterity: Race, Sex, Age	131
5 Conversions of Reciprocity	159
Conclusion	194
<i>Index</i>	197

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Frontmatter

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x

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Frontmatter

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xi

new translation of *The Second Sex* has been commissioned. I have included the page number of the existing US version of the translation (indicated as US), then the UK version (indicated as UK), followed by the page number of the first or second volume of the original French (thus, FrII269 indicates page 269 of the second volume of the French). References to editions used are found in the footnotes.

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