

HOPE IN A SECULAR AGE

This book argues that hope is the indispensable precondition of religious practice and secular politics. Against dogmatic complacency and despairing resignation, David Newheiser argues that hope sustains commitments that remain vulnerable to disappointment. Since the discipline of hope is shared by believers and unbelievers alike, its persistence indicates that faith has a future in a secular age.

Drawing on premodern theology and postmodern theory, Newheiser shows that atheism and Christianity have more in common than they often acknowledge. Writing in a clear and engaging style, he develops a new reading of deconstruction and negative theology, arguing that, despite their differences, they share a self-critical hope. By retrieving texts and traditions that are rarely read together, this book offers a major intervention in debates over the place of religion in public life.

DAVID NEWHEISER is a Research Fellow in the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry at Australian Catholic University. His work has appeared in *The Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *The Journal of Religious Ethics*, and *Theory, Culture & Society*. He is also the editor of numerous collections, including *Desire, Faith, and the Darkness of God* (2015).

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*Deconstruction, Negative Theology, and
the Future of Faith*

DAVID NEWHEISER

Australian Catholic University



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*with gratitude for my family:
both the family I was born with
and the family I have found*

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