Contents

Acknowledgements

Introduction

1  Action and Ontology
   1.1  Introduction
   1.2  Action
   1.3  Ontology
   1.4  Conclusion

2  The Problem of Negative Action
   2.1  Introduction
   2.2  Negative Actions
   2.3  The Problem
   2.4  Conclusion

3  Mere Manifestations of Agency?
   3.1  Introduction
   3.2  Powers, Manifestations, and MMAs
   3.3  'Mere Intentional Behaviours'
   3.4  Conclusion

4  The Logical Form of Negative Action Sentences I: The Case for Deflationism
   4.1  Introduction
   4.2  The Neo-Davidsonian Approach to Action Sentences
   4.3  Negative Action Sentences: Deflationism and the Simple Neo-Davidsonian Approach
   4.4  Three Problems with Adverbs
   4.5  An Unsatisfying Response
   4.6  Conclusion
vi Contents

5 The Logical Form of Negative Action Sentences II: A Neo-Davidsonian Approach 112
   5.1 Introduction 112
   5.2 The Sophisticated Neo-Davidsonian Approach: A Sketch 112
   5.3 The Sophisticated Neo-Davidsonian Approach: The Details 119
   5.4 Negation and Positive Action Sentences 134
   5.5 Conclusion 137

6 The Logical Form of Negative Action Sentences III: The Approach Defended 138
   6.1 Introduction 138
   6.2 Perceptual Locutions 138
   6.3 Adverbs Again 150
   6.4 Comparison to Alternatives 157
   6.5 Conclusion 166

7 Realizer-Functionalism and the Metaphysics of Events 168
   7.1 Introduction 168
   7.2 A Tale of Two Functionalisms 168
   7.3 A Problem for Realizer-Functionalism 172
   7.4 Solving the Problem 180
   7.5 Conclusion 189

8 Objections 190
   8.1 Introduction 190
   8.2 Spatiotemporal Location 190
   8.3 Modal Profiles 197
   8.4 Causal Roles 201
   8.5 Some Lingering Arguments 209
   8.6 Conclusion 221

Conclusion 222

References 225
Index 236