

The Obsessions Of Georges Bataille Community And Communication Suny Series In Contemporary French Thought

Erotism
 Georges Bataille
 The Common Growl
 Contemporary French Philosophy
 In the Real with Bataille and Lacan
 Egress
 Intimacy
 The Legacy of Nietzsche's Philosophy of Laughter
 The Mysticism of Georges Bataille
 On Sovereignty
 Beyond Human
 Georges Bataille
 Religion in Motion
 Politics of the One
 A Critical Introduction
 Rethinking Religion, Knowledge and Discourse in a Globalizing World
 A Serious Controversy
 Failing Desire
 Negative Ecstasies
 From Animality to Transhumanism
 Sovereignty and Violence
 Core Cultural Theorist
 Toward a Poetics of Precarious Community
 A Dialectical Study
 Machinic Capitalism and Molecular Revolution
 Georges Bataille
 Bastard Politics
 Understanding Blanchot, Understanding Modernism
 Contested Communities
 Georges Bataille
 Eroticizing Aesthetics
 Durkheim, the Durkheimians, and the Arts
 Death and Sensuality
 On Mourning, Melancholy and the Fisher-Function
 Community, Politics, and Religion after the Subject
 Mysticism and Materialism in the Wake of German Idealism
 The Obsessions of Georges Bataille
 The Sacred and Society
 The Sunday of the Negative

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CARDENAS KLEIN

Erotism Routledge

"... brilliantly original ... brings cultural and post-colonial theory to bear on a wide range of authors with great skill and sensitivity." Terry Eagleton

Georges Bataille SUNY Press

"This absorbing volume of deeply knowledgeable and insightful essays, including original contributions from seasoned commentators of Maurice Blanchot as well as a number of fresh critical voices, covers the full spectrum of his literary, philosophical and political writing".--Michael Syrotinski, University of Glasgow, UK; from back cover.

The Common Growl BRILL

Reprint. Originally published: Death and sensuality. New York: Walker, 1962.

Contemporary French Philosophy Verso

This book investigates the role of humor in the good life, specifically as discussed by three prominent French intellectuals who were influenced by Nietzsche's thought: Georges Bataille, Gilles Deleuze, and Clément Rosset. Lydia Amir begins by discussing Nietzsche's reception in France, and she explains why and how he came to be considered a "philosopher of laughter" in the French academe. Each of the subsequent three chapters focuses on the significance of humor and laughter in the good life as advocated by Bataille, Deleuze, and Rosset. These chapters also explore the complex relationship between the comic and the tragic, and of humor and laughter to irony, satire, and ridicule. The Legacy of Nietzsche's Philosophy of Laughter makes an invaluable contribution to recent interpretive work done on Bataille and Deleuze, and offers further introduction to the relatively understudied Rosset. It illuminates the philosophies of these three thinkers, their connection to Nietzsche, and, overall, the significant role that humor plays in philosophy.

In the Real with Bataille and Lacan Routledge

This book proposes a theory of the reject, a more adequate figure than the subject for thinking friendship, love, community, democracy, the postsecular, and the posthuman. Through close readings of Nancy, Deleuze, Derrida, Cixous, Clement, Bataille, Balibar, Ranciere, and Badiou, Goh shows how the reject has always been nascent in contemporary French thought. The recent turn to animals and bare life, as well as the rise of the Occupy movement, he argues, presents a special urgency to think the reject today. Thinking the reject most importantly helps to advance our commitment to affirm others without acculturating their differences. But the reject also offers, Goh proposes, a response finally commensurate with the radical horizon of Nancy's question of who comes after the subject.

Egress Routledge

A comprehensive philosophical introduction to the thought of Georges Bataille.

Intimacy Reaktion Books

This volume offers innovative approaches to the study of religion. It brings together junior and senior scholars from the Global North and South. The contributors also explore the context-specific formations of religion and religious knowledge production in an increasingly instable and incalculable, globalized world. In the spirit of the challenging slogan, "Religion in Motion. Rethinking Religion, Knowledge and Discourse in a Globalizing World," the book bundles voices from a great variety of cultural and academic backgrounds. It offers readers a cross-continental exchange of innovative approaches in the study of religion. Coverage intersects religion, gender, economics, and

politics. In addition, it de-centers European perspectives and brings in perspectives from the Global South. Chapters examine such topics as feminine power and agency in the Île Axé Oxum Abalô, queering the Trinity, and faith and professionalism in humanitarian encounters in post-earthquake Haiti. Coverage also explores notions of development in African initiated churches and their implications for development policy, the study of religion as the study of discourse construction, rethinking the religion/secularism binary in world politics, and more. This book will appeal to students and researchers with an interest in Religion and Society, Philosophy and Religion, and Religion and Gender.

The Legacy of Nietzsche's Philosophy of Laughter A&C Black

Despite Georges Bataille's acknowledged influence on major poststructuralist thinkers—including Foucault, Derrida, Kristeva, Lacan, Baudrillard, and Barthes—and his prominence in literary, cultural, and social theory, rarely has he been taken up by scholars of religion, even as issues of the sacred were central to his thinking. Bringing together established scholars and emerging voices, Negative Ecstasies engages Bataille from the perspective of religious studies and theology, forging links with feminist and queer theory, economics, secularism, psychoanalysis, fat studies, and ethics. As these essays demonstrate, Bataille's work bears significance to contemporary questions in the academy and vital issues in the world. We continue to ignore him at our peril.

The Mysticism of Georges Bataille Routledge

This book argues that the rediscovery of mystical theology in nineteenth-century Germany not only helped inspire idealism and romanticism, but also planted the seeds of their overcoming by way of critical materialism. Thanks in part to the Neoplatonic turn in the works of J. G. Fichte, as well as the enthusiasm of mining engineer Franz X. von Baader, mystical themes gained a critical currency, and mystical texts returned to circulation. This reawakening of the mystical tradition influenced romantic and idealist thinkers such as Novalis and Hegel, and also shaped later critical interventions by Marx, Benjamin, and Bataille. Rather than rehearsing well-known connections to Swedenborg or Böhme, this study goes back further to the works of Meister Eckhart, Nicholas of Cusa, Catherine of Siena, and Angela of Foligno. The book offers a new perspective on the reception of mystical self-interrogation in nineteenth-century German thought and will appeal to scholars of philosophy, history, theology, and religious studies.

On Sovereignty BRILL

Draws on theology and queer theory to argue for the power of humiliating pleasures in a culture oriented very strongly to denying any enjoyment that is not about success. Luckily for human diversity, we are perfectly capable of desiring impossible things. Failing Desire explores a particular set of these impossibilities, those connected to humiliation. These include the failure of autonomy in submission, of inward privacy in confession, of visual modesty in exhibition, and of dignity in playing various roles. Historically, those who find pleasure in these failures range from ancient Cynics through early Christian monks to those now drawn by queer or perverse eroticism. As Judith Halberstam pointed out in *The Queer Art of Failure*, failure can actually be a mode of resistance to demands for what a culture defines as success. Karmen MacKendrick draws on this interest in queer refusals. To value, desire, or seek humiliation undercuts any striving for success, but it draws our attention particularly to the failures of knowledge as a form of power, whether that knowledge is of one body or of a population. How can we understand will that seeks not to govern itself, psychology that constructs inwardness by telling all, blushing shame that delights in exposure, or dignity that refuses its lofty position? Failing Desire suggests that the power of these desires and pleasures comes out of the very realization that this question can never quite be answered. □ In *Failing Desire*, Karmen MacKendrick offers her readers something akin to a sequel to *Counterpleasures*. Pursuing

the negative affects of failure, humiliation, and shame across authors that inform much of her work. Bataille, Blanchot, Augustine, Foucault, Kristeva, and Laure MacKendrick effortlessly and breathlessly provides us with provocative new insights about the limitations of language, the pleasures of submission and obedience, and the wily unruliness of the flesh. For her devotees, the evocative prose and suggestive analysis will seem familiar, without being stale or repetitious; for novices, her style and acumen will seem assured and electrifying. MacKendrick breathes new life into authors, texts, and topics that have been at the forefront of critical engagements with embodiment, desire, and affect for the past several decades. Kent L. Brintnall, author of *Ecce Homo: The Male-Body-in-Pain as Redemptive Figure*

Beyond Human SUNY Press

Translated by Krzysztof Filjalkowski and Michael Richardson Winner of the 1987 Prix Goncourt for Biography Georges Bataille (1897–1962), philosopher, writer and founder of the influential literary review *Critique*, had an enormous impact on the thinking of Foucault, Derrida and Baudrillard, and his ideas have been the subjects of recent debates in a wide range of disciplines. In this acclaimed intellectual biography Michel Surya enters into a complicity with Bataille's oeuvre to provide a detailed exposition of its themes as they developed against the backdrop of his life. The essence of Bataille's life and work were defined by transience and effacement, reflecting a will both to contest the impermanence of things and to confront death. His troubled childhood, his relationships with surrealism and his paradoxical position at the heart of twentieth-century French thought are enriched here with testimonies from Bataille's closest acquaintances, making this a vivid and detailed study. Revealing the contexts in which he worked, and the ways in which his work and ideas took shape, Surya sheds essential light on a figure Foucault described as "one of the most important writers of the century."

Georges Bataille SUNY Press

No longer able to read community in terms colored by a romantic nostalgia for homogeneity, closeness and sameness, or the myth of rational choice, we nevertheless face an imperative to think the common. The prominent scholars assembled here come together to articulate community while thinking seriously about the tropes, myths, narratives, metaphors, conceits, and shared cultural texts on which any such articulation depends. The result is a major contribution to literary theory, postcolonialism, philosophy, political theory, and sociology.

Religion in Motion Pluto Press

Raunig develops a philosophy of dividuality as a way of addressing contemporary modes of production and forms of life. The animal of the molecular revolution will be neither mole nor snake, but a drone-animal-thing that is solid, liquid, and a gas. —from *Dividuum* As the philosophical, religious, and historical systems that have produced the "individual" (and its counterparts, society and community) over the years continue to break down, the age of "dividuality" is now upon us. The roots of the concept of the "dividuum" can be traced back to Latin philosophy, when Cicero used the term to translate the "divisible" in the writings of Epicurus and Plato; later, medieval scholars utilized the term in theological discussions on the unity of the trinity. Grounding himself in the writings of the medieval bishop Gilbert de Poitiers and his extensive commentaries on Boethius, Gerald Raunig charts a genealogy of the concept and develops a philosophy of dividuality as a way of addressing contemporary modes of production and forms of life. Through its components of dispersion, subsistence, and similarity, dividuality becomes a hidden principle of obedience and conformity, but it also brings with it the potential to realize disobedience and noncompliant con/dividualities. Raunig's bad news is that dividuality is responsible for much of the intensified exploitation and enslavement taking place under contemporary machinic capitalism. Algorithms, derivatives, big data, and social media technology all contribute to the rampant expansion of divisive management strategies and desires for self-division. The good news, however, is that this same terrain of dividuality presents an opportunity for a new kind of resistance, one that can be realized in the form of con/division.

Politics of the One City Lights Books

An important contribution to the burgeoning field of the ethics of recognition, this book examines the contradictions inherent in the very concept of intimacy. Working with a wide variety of philosophical and literary sources, it warns against measuring our relationships against ideal standards, since there is no consummate form of intimacy. After analyzing ten major ways that we aim to establish intimacy with one another, including gift-giving, touching, and fetishes, the book concludes that each fails on its own terms, since intimacy wants something that is impossible. The very concept of intimacy is a superlative one; it aims not just for closeness, but for a closeness beyond closeness. Nevertheless, far from a pessimistic diagnosis of the human condition, this is a meditation on how to live intimately in a world in which intimacy is impossible. Rather than contenting itself with a deconstructive approach, it proposes to treat intimacy dialectically. For all its contradictions, it shows intimacy is central to how we understand ourselves and our relations to

others.

SUNY Press

This book offers the first fully documented and historically contextualised account of the origins and implications of the concept of community in the work of Nancy and Blanchot. It analyses in detail the underlying philosophical, political, literary, and religious implications of the often misrepresented debate between Blanchot and Nancy.

A Critical Introduction Bloomsbury Publishing

Contested Communities explores the concept of community in postcolonial and diaspora contexts from an interdisciplinary (linguistics, literature, cultural studies) perspective.

Rethinking Religion, Knowledge and Discourse in a Globalizing World SAGE

This volume explores the issues at the center of many historical and contemporary reflections on community and sociality in Continental philosophy. The essays reflect on the thought of Nietzsche, Heidegger, Levinas, Arendt, Derrida, Badiou, Fanon, Baldwin, Nancy, Agamben and Laruelle. *Continental Perspectives on Community* brings the different approaches of these thinkers into conversation with each other. It discusses the possibility of how the concept of community can extend beyond the one and beyond any sense of unity and totality. Additionally, the book shows how notion of community in plurality is at the heart of ethical and political reflections on alterity and race, of political philosophical reflections on the exception, and of ontological reflections on what it means for humans to be social. In this way, it offers an important contribution to the examination of how a community can be thought today. This book will be of interest to scholars and advanced students working on social, political, and cultural issues in Continental philosophy.

A Serious Controversy Berghahn Books

Beyond Human investigates what it means to call ourselves human beings in relation to both our distant past and our possible futures as a species, and the questions this might raise for our relationship with the myriad species with which we share the planet. Drawing on insights from zoology, theology, cultural studies and aesthetics, an international line-up of contributors explore such topics as our origins as reflected in early cave art in the upper Palaeolithic through to our prospects at the forefront of contemporary biotechnology. In the process, the book positions "the human" in readiness for what many have characterized as our transhuman or posthuman future. For if our status as rational animals or "animals that think" has traditionally distinguished us as apparently superior to other species, this distinction has become increasingly problematic. It has come to be seen as based on skills and technologies that do not distinguish us so much as position us as transitional animals. It is the direction and consequences of this transition that is the central concern of *Beyond Human*.

Failing Desire Cambridge University Press

In this comprehensive and engaging study Georges Bataille's central ideas – the sacred, community and eroticism – are explored in detail. Bataille's project to understand social bonds and energies at their most fundamental level and to re-energise society by challenging individualism is argued to be of continuing relevance to sociological thought. Bataille's infamous *Collège de Sociologie* is placed in the intellectual context of Durkheimian and Maussian sociology. Social effervescence, gift exchange, and the dual, ambivalent and volatile nature of the sacred emerge as the central threads of Bataille's thought, ideas which challenge both capitalist hegemony and the reductive notion of society as exclusively normative and repressive. The study concludes by applying Bataille's ideas to contemporary issues including de-secularisation and the rise of religious fundamentalism, the vicarious experience of transgressive violence, and finally, to consumerism and the violence of globalisation. The study seeks to reposition Bataille as a key figure in sociological theory.

Negative Ecstasies Bloomsbury Publishing USA

Outlines a mystical theology and experience of the sacred founded on the absence of god. Originally published in 1943, *Inner Experience* is the single most significant work by one of the twentieth century's most influential writers. It outlines a mystical theology and experience of the sacred founded on the absence of god. Bataille calls *Inner Experience* a "narrative of despair," but also describes it as a book wherein "profundity and passion go tenderly hand in hand." Herein, he says, "The mind moves in a strange world where anguish and ecstasy take shape." Bataille's search for experience begins where religion, philosophy, science, and literature leave off, where doctrines, dogmas, methods, and the arts collapse. His method of meditation, outlined and documented here, commingles horror and delight. Laughter, intoxication, eroticism, poetry, and sacrifice are pursued not as ends in and of themselves but as means of access to a sovereign realm of inner experience. This new translation is the first to include *Method of Meditation* and *Post-Scriptum 1953*, the supplementary texts Bataille added to create the first volume of his *Summa Atheologica*. This edition also offers the full notes and annotations from the French edition of Bataille's *Oeuvres Complètes*, along with an incisive introductory essay by Stuart Kendall that situates the work historically, biographically, and philosophically.

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