



Oneself as Another

By Paul Ricoeur

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Paul Ricoeur has been hailed as one of the most important thinkers of the century. *Oneself as Another*, the clearest account of his "philosophical ethics," substantiates this position and lays the groundwork for a metaphysics of morals.

Focusing on the concept of personal identity, Ricoeur develops a hermeneutics of the self that charts its epistemological path and ontological status.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Probing to the heart of selfhood, Ricoeur finds otherness. In this eminent thinker's theory of personhood, the self is a character-narrator of its own history, its autonomy intimately bound up with solicitude for one's neighbors and with justice for each individual. Professor emeritus at the University of Chicago, Ricoeur reads life histories as literary narratives and attempts to show how practical wisdom should flow from our intuitive moral judgments of what the good life might be like. His ethics of reciprocity and caring draws freely on the whole of Western philosophy, from Plato, Aristotle and Greek tragedy to Heidegger, language theory and John Rawls. An exciting work for specialists and advanced students, this dense, difficult treatise, which cuts across philosophy, semantics, literary theory and social science, will daunt the general reader.

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From Library Journal

The central theme here is the concept of personal identity, within which Ricoeur examines three major issues: the idea of self, of identity or sameness, and of relation to that which is not self. His intention is no less than a hermeneutics of the self, and toward this end he accomplishes much. This is not reading for the philosophical novice, but those familiar with Ricoeur's writings, or those who have a thorough understanding of the concepts employed here, will find this a rich and rewarding book. Based on Ricoeur's 1986 Gifford Lectures, this is recommended for academic libraries with comprehensive programs in philosophy.

- Terry Skeats, Bishop's Univ. Lib., Lennoxville, Quebec

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Steven Zakrzewski:

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Barry Bennett:

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