



Time and Narrative, Volume 1 (Time & Narrative)

By Paul Ricoeur

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Time and Narrative, Volume 1 (Time & Narrative) By Paul Ricoeur

Time and Narrative builds on Paul Ricoeur's earlier analysis, in *The Rule of Metaphor*, of semantic innovation at the level of the sentence. Ricoeur here examines the creation of meaning at the textual level, with narrative rather than metaphor as the ruling concern.

Ricoeur finds a "healthy circle" between time and narrative: time is humanized to the extent that it portrays temporal experience. Ricoeur proposes a theoretical model of this circle using Augustine's theory of time and Aristotle's theory of plot and, further, develops an original thesis of the mimetic function of narrative. He concludes with a comprehensive survey and critique of modern discussions of historical knowledge, understanding, and writing from Aron and Mandelbaum in the late 1930s to the work of the Annales school and that of Anglophone philosophers of history of the 1960s and 1970s.

"This work, in my view, puts the whole problem of narrative, not to mention philosophy of history, on a new and higher plane of discussion."—Hayden White, *History and Theory*

"Superb. . . . A fine point of entrance into the work of one of the eminent thinkers of the present intellectual age."—Joseph R. Gusfield, *Contemporary Sociology*

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Our experience of time raises problems insoluble in its own terms and the only hope of resolving them, argues Ricoeur, lies in moving from phenomenology to history and fiction. In this volume Ricoeur concentrates on fiction, discussing in detail novels of James Joyce and Virginia Woolf. He endeavors to show that fiction and history cannot be sharply separated but rather interweave, making the difficulties in the notion of time appear less exigent. Whether one accepts Ricoeur's "solution," one can only admire the author's immense learning. Regrettably, his rebarbative style may prevent this work from having the full impact it deserves. David Gordon, Social Philosophy & Policy Ctr., Bowling Green State Univ., Ohio

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From the Back Cover

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