



The Speculative Turn: Continental Materialism and Realism

Levi Bryant (Editor) , Nick Srnicek (Editor) , Martin Hägglund (Contributor) , Peter Hallward (Contributor) , Graham Harman (Contributor) , Adrian Johnston (Contributor) , François Laruelle (Contributor) , Bruno Latour (Contributor) , more... Quentin Meillassoux (Contributor) , Reza Negarestani (Contributor) , John Protevi (Contributor) , Steven Shaviro (Contributor) , Isabelle Stengers (Contributor) , Alberto Toscano (Contributor) , Slavoj Žižek (Contributor) , Alain Badiou (Contributor) , Ray Brassier (Contributor) , Nathan Brown (Contributor) , Gabriel Catren (Contributor) , Manuel De Landa (Contributor) , Iain Hamilton Grant (Contributor) ...less

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Continental philosophy has entered a new period of ferment. The long deconstructionist era was followed with a period dominated by Deleuze, which has in turn evolved into a new situation still difficult to define. However, one common thread running through the new brand of continental positions is a renewed attention to materialist and realist options in philosophy. Among the leaders of the established generation, this new focus takes numerous forms. It might be hard to find many shared positions in the writings of Badiou, DeLanda, Laruelle, Latour, Stengers, and i ek, but what is missing from their positions is an obsession with the critique of written texts. All of them elaborate a positive ontology, despite the incompatibility of their results. Meanwhile, the new generation of continental thinkers is pushing these trends still further, as seen in currents ranging from transcendental materialism to the London-based speculative realism movement to new revivals of Derrida. As indicated by the title The Speculative Turn, the new currents of continental philosophy depart from the text-centered hermeneutic models of the past and engage in daring speculations about the nature of reality itself. This anthology assembles authors, of several generations and numerous nationalities, who will be at the centre of debate in continental philosophy for decades to come.

The Speculative Turn: Continental Materialism and Realism Details

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From Reader Review The Speculative Turn: Continental Materialism and Realism for online ebook

David Peak says

Not great, but not terrible either. A lot of thought clearly went into sequencing the essays and, as a result, there's an impressive range of opinion. Standouts here include Ray Brassier's phenomenal "Concepts and Objects"; nearly half a dozen readings of Meillassoux's After Finitude; Steven Shaviro's "The Actual Volcano: Whitehead, Harman, and the Problem of Relations" (followed by Harman's persuasive response); and John Protevi's "Ontology, Biology, and History of Affect." Negarestani is here talking about something he terms "organic necrocracy" (Google it and you'll find the complete essay online--it's pretty great). The rest of the bunch--especially the stuff that leans closer to politics and science--is hit or miss, but never as fun or fresh as the essays exploring speculative realism and metaphysics. Complaints regarding the book's production quality, which put me off buying it for nearly a year, are grossly exaggerated. That being said, I do have to agree with another reviewer here that inserting random Greek words into your essay for no readily discernible reason is just...such wankery.

Jan says

It is a bit of a hodge-podge. On the editorial side, the job could be better. Other than conventional editing slips like typos and grammar, some of the essays don't quite fit the volume as a whole. Contributions vary from very strong to being depressingly bad. Overall, the speculative turn has its powerful moments: Ray Brassier's Concepts and Object, Reza Negarestani's Drafting the Inhuman, Quentin Meillassoux's Potential and Virtuality, Gabriel Catren's Outland Empire and Nick Srnicek's Capitalism and non-Philosophical Subject. I also find the quality of production atrocious (small fonts, bad typesetting, fuzzy letters, thin paper). Lengthy philosophical volumes like this should be at least printed in a decent way so they don't give readers unnecessary headaches.

Chris says

I'll write a review later but I agree with the other reviewers about the poor production quality of this book and inconsistent quality of contributions. The Latourian and panpsychist stuff are truly awful, new-ageish bourgeoisie metaphysics with a pinch of marxism to look responsible and a LOT of ego. The attempt of one of the editors to feign scholarly writing by riddling his essay with greek words is especially hilarious. It's continental philosophy at its worst. But I agree, there are some essays which redeem this book in-the-last-instance and exemplify the seateurs war cover image. Gabriel Catren against Laruelle and Heidegger, Ray Brassier against well we know who, Reza Negarestani versus Nick Land and Ray Brassier, Adrian Johnston against Quentin Meillassoux, the list doesn't go much further.

Filippo says

A review can be accessed at

Eric Phetteplace says

Had to put this on hold because I'm reading four other books and have no time for it. Not very impressed so far: font is tiny which is horrible in such a thoughtful work, and essays vary from trivial and uninteresting to excellent (Brassier's has so far been the best).

Zornitsa Dimitrova says

i don't think it's terrible. there were some litanies and bits of unnecessary pomp, yet there's also this newness and sense of invention. and that's just the beginning, i believe. having read an electronic version, i never even had the chance to get angry about the printing quality of the volume.
