

**A. N. Whitehead and Social Theory**

Tracing a Culture of Thought

*Michael Halewood***Pub Date:** November 2013**Binding:** Paperback**Price:** £25 / \$40**ISBN:** 9781783080694**Extent:** 198 pages**Size:** 229 x 152mm; 9 x 6**Category:** PHILOSOPHY / Movements / Analytic**BISAC code:** PHI039000**BIC code:** JHBA**Rights Held:** World**Description**

This book outlines A.N. Whitehead's philosophy of process, and uses it to re-orient a range of topics within social theory.

'Michael Halewood's book is a brilliant exposition of the philosophy of A. N. Whitehead. Outstanding scholarship, combined with careful, sophisticated illustration, brings out the enormous relevance of Whitehead's radical process thinking for contemporary social theory and social scientific analysis.' —*Professor Mike Michael, Goldsmiths, University of London*

The contemporary importance of A. N. Whitehead (1861–1947) lies in his direct yet productive challenge to the culture of thought inherent in modernity, a challenge that suffuses science, social theory and philosophy alike. Unlike some of the more destructive aspects of postmodernism and poststructuralism, Whitehead's diagnosis of the conceptual fault lines of the modern era does not entail a passive relativism. Instead, he calls for a renewal of our concepts, offering a positive, philosophical approach based on becoming, relativity, and a reconception of subjectivity and the social. This book outlines Whitehead's philosophy, using it to reorient a range of specific questions and topics within contemporary social theory, namely: the relation of language and the body; the relationship between the individual and society; sexual difference; conceptions of nature; the question of realism; the concept of the social; and capitalism as a process. It also provides detailed analyses and comparisons of Whitehead's concepts with those of Judith Butler on materiality and the body, and of Luce Irigaray on nature, essentialism and sexual difference.

Readership: Advanced undergraduates, postgraduates (particularly taught MA courses), research students and academics in sociology, social theory and contemporary philosophy.

Contents

Acknowledgements; List of Abbreviations; Chapter One: A Culture of Thought – The Bifurcation of Nature; Chapter Two: Introducing Whitehead's Philosophy – The Lure of Whitehead; Chapter Three: 'A Thorough-Going Realism' – Whitehead On Cause and Conformation; Chapter Four: The Value of Existence; Chapter Five: Societies, the Social and Subjectivity; Chapter Six: Language and the Body – From Signification to Symbolism; Chapter Seven: This Nature Which Is Not One; Chapter Eight: Capitalism, Process and Abstraction; Notes; Bibliography; Index

About the Author

Michael Halewood is a Senior Lecturer in Social Theory at the University of Essex. He has published articles and chapters on Whitehead's relation to Deleuze, Badiou and Butler, as well as pieces on John Dewey, subjectivity and materiality, the body, language and sociality. He has also edited a special section of the journal *Theory, Culture and Society* dedicated to Whitehead, and is an International Academic Advisor to the Whitehead Research Project.

Ordering in the UK/Rest of the World

Marston Book Services
P.O. Box 269
Abingdon, Oxfordshire
OX14 4YN, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)1235 465577
Fax: +44 (0)1235 465556
direct.orders@marston.co.uk
trade.orders@marston.co.uk

Ordering in North America

Books International
P.O. Box 605
Herndon, VA 20172-0605
United States
Tel: +1 703 661 1570
Fax: +1 703 661 1501
bimail@presswarehouse.com