



Ontotheological Turnings?: The Decentering of the Modern Subject in Recent French Phenomenology (SUNY series in Theology and Continental Thought)

Joeri Schrijvers

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Explores and critiques the so-called “decentering of the subject” in French phenomenology.

This incisive work examines questions of ontotheology and their relation to the so-called “theological turn” of recent French phenomenology. Joeri Schrijvers explores and critiques the decentering of the subject attempted by Jean-Luc Marion, Jean-Yves Lacoste, and Emmanuel Levinas, three philosophers who, inspired by their readings of Heidegger, attempt to overturn the active and autonomous subject. In his consideration of each thinker, Schrijvers shows that a simple reversal of the subject-object distinction has been achieved, but no true decentering of the subject. For Lacoste, the subject becomes God’s intention; for Marion, the subject becomes the object and objective of givenness; and for Levinas, the subject is without secrets, like an object, before a greater Other. Critiquing the axioms and assumptions of contemporary philosophy, Schrijvers argues that there is no overcoming ontotheology. He ultimately proposes a more phenomenological and existential approach, a presencing of the invisible, to address the concerns of ontotheology.

“This book is well-researched and well argued ... highly recommended.” — *Comparative and Continental Philosophy*

“Schrijvers is very thorough in his elaboration of his philosophical ‘sparring partners’ ... The book can serve as a critical introduction to the thoughts of Levinas, Marion and Lacoste in particular and French philosophy of religion in general.” — *Modern Theology*

“...[an] impressive work.” — *Religious Studies Review*

Joeri Schrijvers is a Postdoctoral Researcher of the Research Foundation-Flanders (FWO), Faculty of Theology, at Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium. He is coeditor (with Lieven Boeve, Wessel Stoker, and Hendrik M. Vroom) of *Faith in the Enlightenment? The Critique of the Enlightenment Revisited*.

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