

The Meaning and Power of Negativity

Claremont Studies in the Philosophy of Religion, Conference 2017 Edited by
Ingolf U. Dalferth and Trevor W. Kimball

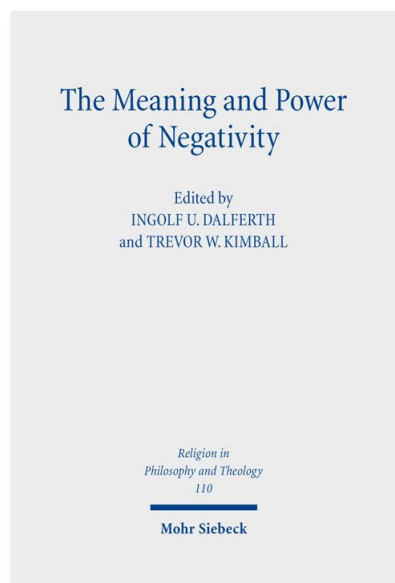
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Published in English.

Negativity is omnipresent in human life and thinking. Without it, contingency and otherness, subjectivity and power, transcendence and immanence and other manifestations of the pluriform dynamics between signifier, signified and meaning in human life and culture cannot be understood. This volume explores the significance of negativity in Western and Eastern thought in four central areas: in the traditions of negative theology in the West; in the dialectics of negativity in the wake of Hegel and in existential philosophy; in versions of negative dialectics and negative hermeneutics in the 20th century; and in Buddhist thought about emptiness, Korean philosophies of nothingness, and the similarities and differences between the mystical traditions of the East and the West. Together, the four parts outline a panorama of questions, positions, and approaches that must be explored by anyone who wants to address questions of negativity in the context of contemporary philosophical, theological, ethical, and existential challenges.

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2021. IX, 369 pages. RPT 110

ISBN 978-3-16-160135-4
sewn paper €104.00

ISBN 978-3-16-160136-1
DOI [10.1628/978-3-16-160136-1](https://doi.org/10.1628/978-3-16-160136-1)
eBook PDF €104.00

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