



Life Above the Clouds
Philosophy in the Film of
Terrence Malick

Edited by
Steven DeLay

LIFE ABOVE THE CLOUDS: PHILOSOPHY IN THE FILMS OF TERRENCE MALICK

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In *Badlands*, *Days of Heaven*, *The Thin Red Line*, *The New World*, *The Tree of Life*, *To the Wonder*, *Knight of Cups*, *Song to Song*, and *A Hidden Life*, American director Terrence Malick has created cinematic works of art, films that are deeply philosophical. Philosophy, in fact, led Malick to film. He first studied with Stanley Cavell as an undergraduate at Harvard. Later a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, Malick left without completing his studies there when Gilbert Ryle told Malick he could not write a thesis on Wittgenstein, Heidegger, and Kierkegaard—such figures were not real philosophy, Ryle is reported to have said. Returning to the States where he for a time taught philosophy at MIT, he translated a work of Martin Heidegger's, while collaborating with Hubert Dreyfus. Soon, however, Malick left academic philosophy behind altogether, embarking instead on a directing career in film. Today, after nearly fifty years of pioneering filmmaking, it is time that Malick's contribution to philosophy through film receive the systematic, careful attention it deserves. The essays herein contribute to that task.

Contributors

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Brian Bajzek
Lee Braver
Haley Irene Burke
Mandel Cabrera
John Caruana
David R. Cerbone
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Joshua Davis
Guy Elgat
Stephen Ferguson
Naomi Fisher
Ross Gibson
Rico Gutschmidt
Christos Hadjioannou
Piero S. Iberti
Keith Jacobs
David B. Johnson
Stuart Kendall
Katerina Kočí
Martin Kočí

Jeffrey Kosky
Daniel Layman
Jonathan Lee
Stephen E. Lewis
Todd R. Long
James Lorenz
Jeff Malpas
Richard Marshall
Joel Mayward
Rico G. Monge
Ian Alexander Moore
Paul Muench
M.G. Piety
James D. Reid
Joseph Rivera
Jordan Rodgers
Fred Rush
Steven Rybin
Paul Schofield
Jared Schumacher
Robert Sinnerbrink
Nicholas Stang
Matthew Strohl
Enrico Terrone
Donald Wallenfang
Nicolas de Warren

Aims and Audience

It is a well-known fact that Terrence Malick's films are undeniably philosophical. However, the precise sense in which that's so remains unclear. Indeed, a reception of his filmography's philosophical dimension has only begun. As has been noted, the earliest work on Malick's films very often approached them from one philosophical perspective only—typically, the Heideggerian one. This approach has the tendency to *impose* a framework on Malick's work, rather than letting it speak for itself. His films are far too rich and complex to be reduced to a single theoretical figure or tradition. This reductionist approach, thus, also has the unfortunate tendency to overlook the importance of other traditions and figures besides that of Heidegger and phenomenology. In providing a comprehensive and accessible pluralistic assessment of Malick's filmography, the proposed volume will be indispensable for any students and scholars of the philosophical and theological questions and problems his films give to think.

Structure and Content

I. Films

Badlands (1973) **Ross Gibson**

Days of Heaven (1978) **M.G. Piety**
The Thin Red Line (1998) **Paul Schofield**
The New World (2005) **Nicholas Stang**
The Tree of Life (2011) **Fred Rush**
To the Wonder (2012) **Steven Rybin**
Knight of Cups (2015) and *Song to Song* (2017) **Matthew Strohl**
Voyage of Time (2016) **Robert Sinnerbrink**
A Hidden Life (2019) **Steven DeLay**

II. Things

Abandonment **Todd R. Long**
Authority **David B. Johnson**
Beauty **Jeffrey Kosky**
Creation **Joseph Rivera**
Desire **Stephen Ferguson** and **Brian Bajzek**
Eternity **Nicolas de Warren**
Faith **Matthew Clemente** and **Piero S. Iberti**
Fall **Jussi Backman**
Finitude **Mandel Cabrera**
Fragmentation **Jordan Rodgers**
Freedom **Daniel Layman**
Grace **Joshua Davis**
Guilt **Guy Elgat**
Hope **Haley I. Burke**
Immortality **Paul Muench**
Innocence **William Connelly**
Law **Jared Schumacher**
Love **Joel Mayward**
Martyrdom **Donald Wallenfang**
Melancholy **Keith Jacobs** and **Jeff Malpas**
Mystery **David R. Cerbone**
Nature **Naomi Fisher**
Redemption **Richard Marshall**
Sacrifice **Katerina Kočí** and **Martin Kočí**
Technology **Christos Hadijoannou**
Theodicy **Ian A. Moore**
Time **James Lorenz**
Transcendence I **Lee Braver**
Transcendence II **Maximos Constas**
World **Candace R. Craig** and **James D. Reid**

III. Traditions

Asceticism **Rico Monge**
Cartesianism **Enrico Terrone**

Mysticism **Rico Gutschmidt**
Neoplatonism **Jonathan Lee**

The volume spans three sections. In the first section, authors take up one of Malick's films in an essay analyzing the film through the lens of the philosophical material at stake in it. This first section, by familiarizing readers with Malick's filmography, sets the stage for the volume's middle section. In that second section, entries explore key issues or themes — “things,” as it were — that recur in Malick's films. In these entries, authors place the issue in question in its philosophical and theoretical context, by putting it in dialogue with one or more of Malick's films. As an example, the entry on “Interiority” might analyze the phenomenon, by adopting the perspective of Michel Henry's phenomenology, with reference to illustrative scenes or characters from *To the Wonder* and *A Hidden Life*. Or to take another example, the entry on “Abandonment” might analyze the thing in question through an analysis of how the tradition of negative theology approaches the phenomenon, with an eye to experiences of bereavement or yearning as exhibited in *The Tree of Life*. The entry on “Joy,” to cite a final example, might deploy the French philosopher Jean-Louis Chrétien's work on “dilation” in *Spacious Joy: An Essay in Phenomenology and Literature* to explain how Malick's films transform the viewer by enacting in the one who watches them the very process of “expansion” described by Chrétien. Various themes such as grace and hope can be approached from any number of theological perspectives, and entries on issues such as technology or nature might be approached productively with reference to Heidegger, for instance. There is plenty of room for intellectual creativity!

Finally, essays in the volume's third section place the philosophical material of Malick's films in further systematic context, with reference to intellectual traditions such as Neoplatonism, Cartesianism, mysticism, and asceticism. Entries in the middle section will be the shortest—approximately 5,000 to 7,000 words. Entries in the first and third sections will be longer, approximately 7,000 to 10,000 words.

Market

There is a relatively limited (but growing) number of books on Malick's *oeuvre*. Generally, anthologies have consisted in collections of essays wherein each essay addresses one specific film, respectively—an approach this proposed volume adopts in section one. While monographs such as Robert Sinnerbrink's *Terrence Malick: Filmmaker and Philosopher* (Bloomsbury, 2019) and Steven Rybin's *Terrence Malick and the Thought of Film* (Lexington, 2011) have addressed Malick's filmography as a whole, they do so from one philosophical perspective only, given that they are works of a sole author. Generally, the literature on Malick tends to focus on what interpreters take to be “Malick's philosophy,” rather than the philosophical material *per se* that his films gives to think. The proposed volume will be different: although it certainly will explore Malick's own thought as such, it will do so in a way bringing that material into bona fide philosophical discussion with established figures, traditions, and problems. The point, in short, isn't only to theorize *about* Malick, but to explore the ideas in his work, by illuminating and evaluating them in their intellectual context. In doing so, this work will lay a scholarly foundation for future research across a variety of topics and issues, thereby remaining relevant

for years to come, even after the release of future Malick films. Creating a framework through which future work can be done, it will offer a collection of enduring scholarly essays of inherent philosophical value. Building on the best literature that has already been done in this area, the hope is that our volume will offer a definitive, comprehensive statement on Malick's work.

Not only, then, will this be the first volume to treat all of Malick's film to date—some previous collections such as the one edited by Stuart Kendall and Thomas Tucker *Terrence Malick: Film and Philosophy* (Continuum, 2011) appeared before the theatric release of *The Tree of Life* (2011)—, it will be the first and only volume to do so from many philosophical, theological, and disciplinary perspectives all at once. An excellent resource for students and scholars in aesthetics, ethics, political philosophy, philosophy of religion, phenomenology, and existentialism, *Life above the Clouds: Philosophy in the Film of Terrence Malick* will also be useful to those in related fields such as theology, film theory, art criticism, and cultural studies.

Timetable

Given the great enthusiasm contributors have expressed for this project (the recent release of *A Hidden Life* certainly helps!), I see everyone working efficiently to complete his or her entry on schedule. Contributors have been informed that the due date for their paper abstracts is August, with a due date for final papers still to be determined for next year. Author bios are below.

Contributor Biographies

Jussi Backman (PhD University of Helsinki) is Academy of Finland senior research fellow at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland. His research fields include contemporary continental philosophy (phenomenology, philosophical hermeneutics, poststructuralism, recent continental realism), continental political theory and philosophy of religion, and ancient philosophy. His current research project is focused on the conceptual history of the concept of creativity. In addition to numerous articles, he is the author of *Complicated Presence: Heidegger and the Postmetaphysical Unity of Being* (SUNY Press, 2015) and *Omaisuus ja elämä: Heidegger ja Aristoteles kreikkalaisen ontologian rajalla* (Eurooppalaisen filosofian seura, 2005), and coeditor (with Antonio Cimino) of *Bios and Polis: Biopolitics and Ancient Thought* (under evaluation at Oxford University Press) and of special issues and an edited volume in Finnish.

Brian Bajzek (PhD Regis College and University of Toronto) is Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology and Director of Pre-Theology at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, New York. His current work explores how intersubjectivity and otherness illuminate the intersection of theological anthropology and trinitarian theology. He has published in *The Heythrop Journal*, *International Philosophical Quarterly*, and *Theological Studies*, as well as several forthcoming edited volumes. He is also the director of the Philosophy component of the International Institute for Method in Theology.

Lee Braver (PhD Emory University) is Professor of Philosophy at the University of South Florida. His main interests are in continental philosophy (especially Heidegger and Derrida), Wittgenstein, realism, and the dialogue between continental and analytic philosophy. He is the

author of *A Thing of This World: A History of Continental Anti-Realism* (Northwestern University Press, 2007), *Heidegger's Later Writings: A Reader's Guide* (Bloomsbury, 2009), *Groundless Grounds: A Study of Wittgenstein and Heidegger* (MIT Press, 2012), *Heidegger: Thinking of Being* (Polity, 2014), and editor of *Division III of Being and Time: Heidegger's Unanswered Question of Being* (MIT Press, 2015). He has written articles on aesthetics, analytic-continental dialogue, art history, Donald Davidson, Philip K. Dick, Dilthey, Hubert Dreyfus, entrepreneurship, Foucault, Gadamer, Gnosticism, Heidegger, the history of analytic philosophy, Kierkegaard, Levinas, John McDowell, Quentin Meillassoux, pedagogy, Putnam, Quine, robots, transgressive realism, unthinkability, and Wittgenstein.

Haley Irene Burke is a PhD student at the Department of Philosophy at Texas A&M University. She received her MA in philosophy with distinction from the University of New Mexico, with a thesis on Martin Heidegger's dialogical thinking. Drawing on phenomenology, existentialism, aesthetics, and social and political philosophy, her research focuses on questions concerning "world-construction" in the late-modern era.

Mandel Cabrera (PhD University of California Los Angeles) is an Assistant Professor of philosophy at Underwood International College, Yonsei University. His main areas of interest lie in Spinoza's philosophy of religion, as well as philosophy and the arts, and 20th century European philosophy.

John Caruana (PhD York University) is Associate Professor of Philosophy. His published work is in the area of phenomenology, continental philosophy of religion, and film-philosophy. In addition to publications on Adorno, Kierkegaard, Kristeva, and Levinas, he has published, amongst others, on the cinema of Bruno Dumont, Krzysztof Kieślowski, Terrence Malick, and the Dardenne brothers. He is co-editor with Mark Cauchi of *Immanent Frames: Postsecular Cinema between Malick and von Trier* (SUNY Press, 2018).

David R. Cerbone (PhD University of California Berkeley) is Professor of Philosophy at West Virginia University. He is the author of *Understanding Phenomenology* (Acumen, 2006), *Heidegger: A Guide for the Perplexed* (Continuum, 2008), and *Existentialism: All That Matters* (Hodder & Stoughton, 2015), as well as numerous articles on Heidegger, Wittgenstein, and the phenomenological tradition. He is also a co-editor (along with Søren Overgaard and Komarine Romdenh-Romluc) of the *Routledge Research in Phenomenology* series.

Matthew Clemente (PhD Boston College) is a Lecturer in the Woods College of Advancing Studies at Boston College specializing in existentialism, philosophy of religion, and contemporary Continental thought. He is the associate editor of the *Journal of Continental Philosophy of Religion* (Brill) and the author of *Eros Crucified: Death, Desire, and the Divine in Psychoanalysis and Philosophy of Religion* (Routledge, 2020).

William Connelly is currently a doctoral student in philosophy at the Catholic University of Paris. He is originally from Atlanta, Georgia, where he conducted three years of masters study in theology and philosophy, spending two years at Emory University and one year at Holy Spirit College, earning both an M.T.S and MTh degree respectively. His current research is focused on the philosophy of Maurice Blondel, and late 19th and early 20th century French thought, with a

concentration in spiritualism and phenomenology. He is the co-translator of Emmanuel Falque's *Nothing to it: Reading Freud in Philosophy* (Leuven University Press, 2020). He works as a secretary for the International Network in Philosophy of Religion (INPR) and is an Editorial Coordinator for *Crossing: the INPR Journal*.

Maximos Constas (PhD Catholic University of America) is Interim Dean and Senior Research Scholar at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, in Brookline, Mass. For many years he was a professor of theology at Harvard Divinity School, after which he became a monk at the Monastery of Simonopetra (Mt. Athos, Greece). He recently published *St Maximos the Confessor, On Difficulties in Sacred Scripture: The Responses to Thalassios* (Catholic University Press, 2018), which follows his edition and translation of *St Maximos the Confessor, On Difficulties in the Church Fathers: The Ambigua to Thomas and the Ambigua to John*, 2 vols. (Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library, 2014). He is the author of *The Art of Seeing: Paradox and Perception in Orthodox Iconography* (Sebastian Press, 2014); *Proclus of Constantinople and the Cult of the Virgin in Late Antiquity* (Brill, 2003); as well as numerous scholarly articles and translations, including four volumes of the writings of the contemporary Athonite Elder Aimilianos of Simonopetra: *The Church at Prayer, The Way of the Spirit, Psalms and the Life of Faith*, and *The Mystical Marriage*. His most recent publications are *Mother of the Light: Prayers to the Theotokos* (Newrome Press, 2018); and *St John Chrysostom and the Jesus Prayer* (Newrome Press, 2019). His work focuses on the patristic and Byzantine theological tradition, the patristic interpretation of Scripture, the *Philokalia* and Orthodox spirituality, and the theological study of Byzantine art, aesthetics, and film.

Candace R. Craig

Joshua Davis (PhD Vanderbilt University) is the Executive Director of the Institute for Christian Socialism. He is an Episcopalian theologian and educator who has taught at several universities and seminaries, including The General Theological Seminary. He lives in Birmingham, Alabama.

Steven DeLay (DPhil University of Oxford) is an Old Member of Christ Church, Oxford and a Fellow at Ambrose College, Woolf University. Author of *Before God: Exercises in Subjectivity* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2020) and *Phenomenology in France: A Philosophical and Theological Introduction* (Routledge, 2019), his work in phenomenology and the history of philosophy has appeared in many journals, as well as in translation in *Sabah Ülkesi* magazine.

Guy Elgat (PhD Northwestern University) is Lecturer in the Department of Liberal Arts at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He is the author of *Nietzsche's Philosophy of Ressentiment* (Routledge, 2017). He specializes in German philosophy, with a focus on the thought of Friedrich Nietzsche. He currently is working on a book-length investigation of guilt in German philosophy (Kant to Heidegger).

Stephen Ferguson is a PhD student at the Department of Philosophy at Fordham University. He received his bachelor's and master's degree in philosophy from Boston College, where he was a Lonergan Master's Fellow. He has written book reviews for *The Lonergan Review*, is a Lilly Graduate Fellow, and is presently serving as a member of the Young Alumni Advisory Council

for Alpha Sigma Nu. His dissertation examines the interplay of *phronesis* and the notion of the *verbum* in the tradition of hermeneutics.

Naomi Fisher (PhD University of Notre Dame) is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Loyola University Chicago. Prior to coming to Loyola in 2018, she taught at Clark University in Massachusetts. Her research focuses on Kant and German Idealism and Romanticism, specifically the relationship between nature, freedom, and rationality in Kant's Critical philosophy and in Friedrich Schelling's philosophy of nature. She also has interests in the broader history of philosophy, particularly the 19th century, the philosophy of science, and ethics. She is currently working on a manuscript on the influence of Plato in Schelling's philosophy of nature.

Ross Gibson (PhD Kings College London) is Centenary Professor in Creative and Cultural Research at the University of Canberra. He has created a dozen books, several films, radio feature programs, museum and gallery exhibitions, and live performances. He was inaugural Creative Director at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (1998 - 2002) after being Senior Consultant Producer for the establishment of the Museum of Sydney (1993 - 96). He has also served as a member of the Foresighting Working Group for the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council.

Rico Gutschmidt (PhD University of Bonn) is Assistant Professor at the University of Konstanz. He has published on skepticism (ancient and modern), Heidegger, Wittgenstein, Cavell, philosophy of religion, negative theology, and the philosophy of physics. His current research concerns philosophical reasoning as transformative experience.

Christos Hadjioannou (PhD University of Sussex) is Postdoctoral Fellow at the Faculty of Philosophy, Sofia University, "St. Kliment Ohridski", Bulgaria. Editor of *Heidegger on Affect* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019), co-editor of *Heidegger on Technology* (Routledge, 2018) and *Towards a New Human Being* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019), he publishes frequently on Heidegger and Husserl, with research interests in hermeneutic phenomenology and existentialism. He is currently working on a monograph on Phenomenology and Stoicism, and co-authoring a monograph on Heidegger with Luce Irigaray and Mahon O'Brien.

Piero Steele Iberti has had a talent for communicating the visual to written word most of his life, but didn't figure out that he wanted to translate that skill to screenwriting/filmmaking until he finished school. He hungrily consumed, studied and enjoyed movies in his adolescent and college years and, after graduating from The College of the Holy Cross in 2011 with a degree in English with Creative Writing and Peace & Conflict Studies concentrations, he began to tell his stories on the page and on screen. In the years since graduating he has worked as a Production Assistant & Writers' Assistant on such shows as "Treme" (HBO), "Boardwalk Empire" (HBO) and "Show Me A Hero" (HBO), as well as an assistant to Oscar-Nominated Producer Rachel Winter. Piero was also Script Coordinator/Writers' Assistant for Season I of David Simon & George Pelecanos' HBO series "The Deuce" as well as Seasons I, II & III of USA's Limited Series "The Sinner" where he, most recently, had the opportunity to co-write the Season 3 finale. Along the way Piero finds time to funnel his passion and experience from professional Film/TV projects into his own writing and filmmaking. He has written several treatments, spec scripts and

feature-length scripts, culminating in his most recent effort (alongside long-time friends and frequent collaborators Stephen & Alexa Kinigopoulos) FISHBOWL, which made its World Premiere at the 2018 Austin Film Festival and is currently being acquired for global distribution via Amazon Video or Netflix.

Keith Jacobs (PhD Birkbeck College, London) is Professor of Sociology at the University of Tasmania. He has an extensive track record with over 70 journal articles, and his recent books include: *Experience and Representation: Contemporary Perspectives on Migration in Australia; Ocean to Outback: Cosmopolitanism in Contemporary Australia Housing* (coedited with Jeff Malpas); *House, Home and Society* (co-authored with Rowland Atkinson); *Towards a Philosophy of the City: Interdisciplinary and Transcultural Perspectives* (coedited with Jeff Malpas); *Neoliberal Housing Policy: an International Perspective* and *Housing What Do we Know and What Can We Do* (co-authored with Rowland Atkinson). Keith is a member of the editorial board of Housing Studies and the international advisory boards of Housing Theory and Society and International Journal of Housing Policy. He has written a number of articles with Jeff Malpas, these are all listed below.

David Benjamin Johnson (PhD Northwestern University) is a Lecturer in the Department of Liberal Arts at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. His research focuses on the intersection of aesthetics, philosophy of film, critical theory, and recent French philosophy. His work has appeared in *Deleuze Studies*, *Cinema: A Journal of Philosophy and the Moving Image* and *The Sublime: From Antiquity to the Present* (Cambridge University Press, 2012).

Stuart Kendall (PhD State University of New York, Stony Brook) is a Professor at the Graduate Design Program of the California College of Art. He is a writer, editor, and translator working at the intersections of philosophy, poetics, visual culture, and design. His books include *Terrence Malick: Film and Philosophy*, *The Ends of Art and Design*, *Georges Bataille*, and many other edited and translated volumes, most frequently related to post-Surrealist trends in poetry, philosophy, and visual culture.

Katerina Kočí (PhD KU Leuven) is a postdoctoral researcher at the Protestant Theological Faculty at Charles University. In 2018, she was awarded the Jan Patočka Junior Visiting Fellowships at the Institute of Human Sciences in Vienna (Austria). Her research interests include feminist theology, philosophical and textual hermeneutics, and art (literature) as a medium of religious experience. She currently works on sacrifice at the intersection of philosophy, gender and biblical studies.

Martin Kočí (PhD KU Leuven) is a post-doctoral research fellow at the Institute for Philosophy, the University of Vienna. His research focuses on the theological turns in contemporary continental philosophy and theology in a postmodern context. He specializes in the French phenomenology, its Anglo-American reception, and the work of the Czech phenomenologist Jan Patočka. He is the author of *Thinking Faith after Christianity* (SUNY Press 2020) and the editor of *Transforming the Theological Turn* (Rowman & Littlefield 2020).

Jeffrey Kosky (PhD University of Chicago) is Professor of Religion at Washington & Lee University. He is the author of *Levinas and the Philosophy of Religion* (Indiana University Press) and *Arts of Wonder: Enchanting Secularity* (University of Chicago Press, 2013), which won

the Award for Excellence in Constructive-Reflective Studies from the American Academy of Religion (2013) and was named to the New Museum's list of "Favorite titles from the past year" (2012).

Daniel Layman (PhD University of North Carolina Chapel Hill) is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Davidson College, where he teaches and writes about liberalism, early modern philosophy, and the relationships between them. In addition to a number of articles on figures such as Locke and Boyle and contemporary political theory, he is the author of *Locke Among the Radicals: Liberty and Property in the Nineteenth Century* (Oxford University Press, 2020).

Jonathan Lee (PhD University of Connecticut) is Professor of Philosophy at Colorado College, where he has taught for nearly thirty years. While working extensively in ancient Greek philosophy and contemporary French philosophy, he has also written and published widely on contemporary music and sound art, film, visual art, poetry, and photography. Representative publications include *Jacques Lacan* (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1991); "Mimêsis and Beyond: Mallarmé, Boulez, and Cage" (in Richard Kostelanetz [ed.], *Writings About John Cage* [Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1993], 180-212); "Iannis Xenakis and the Presocratic Foundations of a New Music," *Journal of Modern Greek Studies* 29 (2011):73-82; "*I Am Because We Are*": *Readings in Africana Philosophy*, revised edition, edited with introductions by Fred Lee Hord and Jonathan Scott Lee. (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2016); "(In)visible and (In)audible Temporalities in the Work of Daisuke Yokota," *Exposure Magazine* (12 September 2018) [<https://medium.com/exposure-magazine/in-visible-and-in-audible-temporalities-in-the-work-of-daisuke-yokota-9f62f113e867>]; and "Aesthetics, Psychoanalysis, and the Avant-Garde," in Kelly Becker and Iain Thomson (eds.), *The Cambridge History of Philosophy, 1945-2015*, 542-549 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019).

Stephen E. Lewis (PhD University of Chicago) is Professor of English at the Franciscan University of Steubenville. He teaches a variety of periods and figures in British and American literature, and writes about modern and contemporary American, British, and French literature, and modern philosophy and Christianity. He has translated books by Jean-Louis Chrétien, Jean-Luc Marion, and Claude Romano. He is writing a book on twentieth-century and contemporary French literature and the Bible.

Todd R. Long (PhD University of Notre Dame) is Professor in the Philosophy Department at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Specializing in mainstream epistemology, the metaphysics of free will and moral responsibility, and the epistemology of religious belief, he has work published in journals such as *Philosophical Studies* and *Religious Studies*, as well as in collections published by Oxford University Press and MIT Press, among others. He has worked as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Center for Philosophy of Religion at the University of Notre Dame, and he has taught philosophy at the University of Arkansas, University of Rochester, and the University of Notre Dame.

James Lorenz is a DPhil Candidate at the University of Oxford at the Faculty of Theology and Religion. His research is situated broadly in the field of modern systematic theology, with a

particular focus on religion and the arts, specifically cinema. His doctoral thesis engages with film-phenomenology (via Maurice Merleau-Ponty and Vivian Sobchack) in order to explore the theological concepts which emerge from the films and writings of Andrei Tarkovsky.

Jeff Malpas (PhD Australian National University) is currently Research Professor in Philosophy at the University of Tasmania. He works across a wide range of topics in contemporary thought, but is best known for his work on the philosophy of place and space, twentieth-century German philosophy, and contemporary hermeneutics and philosophy of language. Much of his work is interdisciplinary in character connecting philosophy with art, architecture, film studies, and geography, among other disciplines. His most recent books (all having appeared this year) are *Heidegger and the Place of Thinking* (MIT, 2012), the edited collections, *The Place of Landscape* (MIT, 2011) and *Dialogues with Davidson* (MIT, 2011), *Perspectives on Human Suffering* (with Norelle Lickiss, Springer). He is also the author of *Place and Experience* (Cambridge, 1999), *Heidegger's Topology* (MIT, 2006), has edited many other volumes, and has over hundred articles that have in various journals and collections.

Richard Marshall runs the *End Times* project, a series of interviews with philosophers at the website *3:16 AM*. He was contributing editor at *3ammagazine* from 2000 until 2019.

Joel Mayward is adjunct professor at Portland Seminary (George Fox University) and a PhD candidate at the Institute for Theology, Imagination and the Arts (ITIA) at the University of St Andrews, where he also serves as an editor for *Transpositions*, ITIA's online journal. A pastor-theologian and film critic, he is the author of three books, and is presently writing a monograph on philosophical theology and the cinema of Christopher Nolan (Lexington Books/Fortress Academic).

Rico G. Monge (PhD University of California Santa Barbara) is Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of San Diego. His teaching and research focus on comparative theology, continental philosophy of religion, and the history of Christian theology (including Catholic, Protestant, and Eastern Orthodox theology). As a comparative theologian, Monge specializes in Christian and Islamic mystical and ascetic traditions, interpreting them through the lenses of phenomenology, existentialism, and Marxist thought. He also explores religious and philosophical themes in literature and film.

Ian Alexander Moore (PhD DePaul University) is tutor at St. John's College and, starting in Fall 2021, assistant professor of philosophy at Loyola Marymount University. He is the author of *Eckhart, Heidegger, and the Imperative of Releasement* (SUNY, 2019), editor of Reiner Schürmann's *Neo-Aristotelianism and the Medieval Renaissance* (Diaphanes, 2020), co-editor of Jean Wahl's *Transcendence and the Concrete* (Fordham University Press, 2017), and translator or co-translator of books by Martin Heidegger, Eugen Fink, and Peter Sloterdijk. He has published articles and book chapters on medieval and continental philosophy, as well as on the work of Cormac McCarthy and Werner Herzog. He also serves as Associate Editor of the journal *Philosophy Today*.

Paul Muench (PhD University of Pittsburgh) is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Montana. His research focuses on Kierkegaard, specifically Kierkegaard's interpretation of

Socrates and how Kierkegaard himself employs a Socratic method in some of his writings. He also has interests in Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy, Thoreau, Nietzsche, History of Analytic Philosophy, Wittgenstein, and Philosophy of Literature and Film.

M.G. Piety (PhD McGill University) is a Professor of Philosophy at Drexel University in Philadelphia. Piety has published numerous scholarly articles in professional journals and books, as well as popular articles and essays both online and in the *Times Literary Supplement*. Her translations of Søren Kierkegaard's *Repetition* and *Philosophical Crumbs* for Oxford University Press appeared in 2009 and her book *Ways of Knowing: Kierkegaard's Pluralist Epistemology* was published by Baylor University Press in 2010. She published a collection of essays entitled *Sequins and Scandals: Reflections on Figure Skating, Culture, and the Philosophy of Sport* with Gegensatz Press in 2014. She maintains three blogs, *Piety On Kierkegaard*, a specialist blog for scholars, *The Life of the Mind*, a blog aimed at a general readership, and *Flash Philosophy*, a blog dedicated to publishing short philosophical articles. Piety is also a certified philosophical counselor who is interested in the potential of philosophy to improve the quality of people's lives. She enjoys giving talks to the general public. She has lectured all over the world and has appeared on both television and radio.

James D. Reid

Joseph Rivera (PhD University of Edinburgh) is a tenured professor of philosophy of religion at Dublin City University. He specializes in Christian systematic theology, phenomenology of religion, and political theology. He has published two monographs and over two dozen articles in peer reviewed journals.

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Fred Rush (PhD Columbia University) is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame. He is the author of *Irony and Idealism* (Oxford University Press, 2016) and *On Architecture* (Routledge, 2009). He is the editor of *The Cambridge Companion to Critical Theory* (Cambridge University Press, 2004), a co-editor of *Philosophy of Sculpture* (Routledge, forthcoming 2020), and for several years also edited the *Internationales Jahrbuch des deutschen Idealismus*. He has just completed a book called *Film's Experience*.

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