



Subjects of Desire

By Judith Butler

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This now classic work by one of the most important philosophers and critics of our time charts the trajectory of desire and its genesis from Hegel's formulation in *Phenomenology of Spirit* through its appropriation by Kojève, Hyppolite, Sartre, Lacan, Deleuze, and Foucault, presenting how French reception of Hegel posed successive challenges to his metaphysics and view of the subject and revealed ambiguities within his position.

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Editorial Review

Review

What her account suggests is that the most damaging aspect of contemporary French Hegel reception is that its highly critical emphasis on the metaphysical issues of identity, rationality, and historical closure have so obscured Hegel's original idealism, especially his theory of reflection, that the rejection of Hegel brings with it, with a kind of dialectical necessity, the return of the "pre"-Hegelian, even the pre-Kantian, a kind of naive hope for 'immediacy' and, paradoxically, a commitment to a realism that the idealist tradition was to have finished off.

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(Robert B. Pippin, *The Philosophical Review*)

About the Author

Judith Butler, Maxine Elliot Professor of Rhetoric and Comparative Literature at the University of California, Berkeley, is the author of many works, including *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*; *The Psychic Life of Power: Theories in Subjection*; and *Excitable Speech: A Politics of the Performative*.

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