Formal Philosophy
edited by
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This volume contains 21 interviews on five questions for formal philosophers. The questions are: (1) Why were you initially drawn to formal methods? (2) What example(s) from your own work illustrates the role formal methods can play in philosophy? (3) What is the proper role of philosophy in relation to other disciplines? (4) What do you consider the most neglected topics and/or contributions in late 20th century philosophy. (5) What are the most important open problems in philosophy and what are the prospects for progress?

This book brings together the opinions of some very distinguished scholars from Europe and North-America. Not every contributor replies to all questions, and the length of the interviews varies from one page (Adolf Grünbaum) to 26 pages (Wolfgang Spohn).

What does this book achieve? First of all, it gives an impression of what formal philosophy is, not by definition but rather by examples indicating the range of formal philosophy. Second, it gives an impression of what kind of scientists are working in this field, what their motivations for doing formal philosophy are, and which or what kind of insights and results they have obtained and which methods they have developed or applied. Third, the books presents an interesting snapshot of intellectual history, and it is not for the least part that the latter aspect makes the book a very interesting reading.

It will come as no surprise that formal philosophy is a field of interdisciplinary research. Among the contributors there are some well-known mathematicians, and it is particularly interesting for a philosopher to see what they have to say about formal philosophy.

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Formal epistemology explores knowledge and reasoning using formal tools, tools from math and logic. For example, a formal epistemologist might use probability theory to explain how scientific reasoning works. Or she might use modal logic to defend a particular theory of knowledge. The questions that drive formal epistemology are often the same as those that drive informal epistemology. What is knowledge, and how is it different from mere opinion? What separates science from pseudoscience? When is a belief justified? Formal philosophy merges work in different areas of philosophy as well as logic, mathematics, computer science, linguistics, physics, psychology, biology, economics, political theory, and sociology. This title offers an accessible introduction to this new interdisciplinary research area to a wide academic audience. View Formal Philosophy Research Papers on Academia.edu for free. A number of statements will be defended in this formal philosophy of political relationships, both paralleling the results of [5] and developing the latter by means of logical operators: (1) The relation of rivalry proceeds as an intermediary stage between friendship and enmity, corresponding to the logical relation of indifference (the same ordered values can be shared or not).