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 uses formal methods from decision theory, logic, probability theory and computability theory to model and reason about issues of epistemological interest. Work in this area spans several academic fields, including philosophy, computer science, economics, and statistics. The focus of formal epistemology has tended to differ somewhat from that of traditional epistemology, with topics like uncertainty, induction, and belief revision garnering more attention than the analysis of Metaphilosophy > Philosophical Methods > Formal Philosophy. Formal Philosophy. Related categories. Siblings Experimental Philosophy Meets Formal Epistemology. Jonah N. Schupbach - forthcoming - In Sytsma & Buckwalter (eds.), Blackwell Companion to Experimental Philosophy. Blackwell.details. Formal epistemology is just what it sounds like: epistemology done with formal tools. Formal philosophy, as others pointed out, is an approach with formalized language. To ease things here, let us assume that the main idea is that by formalization it is possible to infer the truth value and propositional content directly from grammar and syntax. The ultimate goal is a perfect scientific language where equivocations and misunderstandings are impossible (like in mathematics), but still a language. And not only in an analogic sense like mathematics are called a language, but a medium for communication about the world.