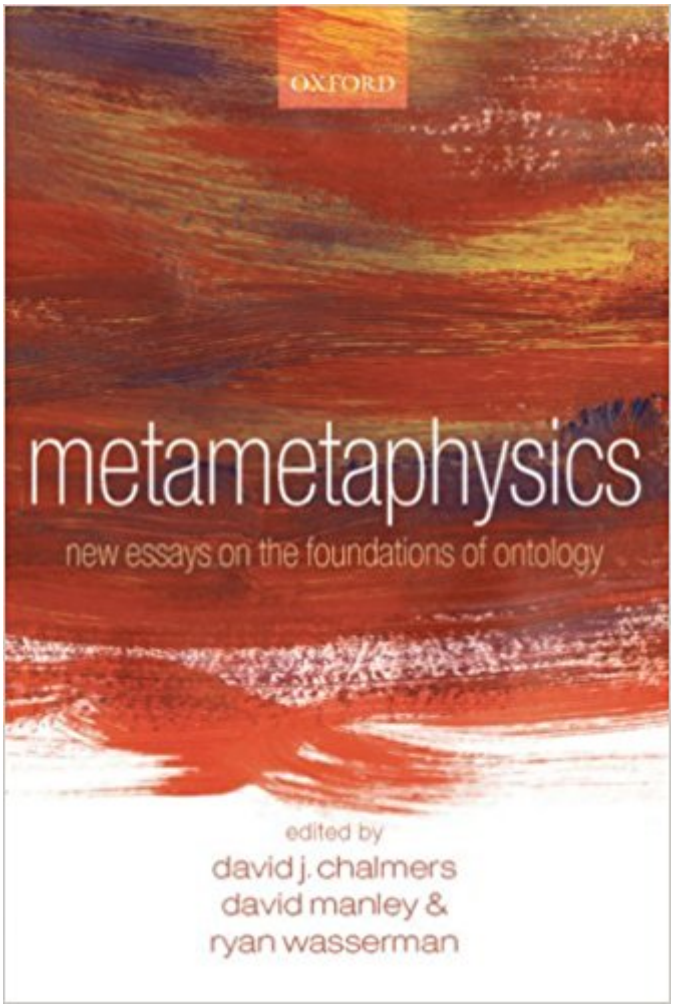
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Metametaphysics: New Essays On The Foundations Of Ontology



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Synopsis

Metaphysics asks questions about existence: for example, do numbers really exist? Metametaphysics asksquestions about metaphysics: for example, do its questions have determinate answers? If so, are these answers deep and important, or are they merely a matter of how we use words? What is the proper methodology for their resolution? These questions have received a heightened degree of attention lately with new varieties of ontological deflationism and pluralism challenging the kind of realism that has become orthodoxy in contemporary analytic metaphysics.This volume concerns the status and ambitions of metaphysics as a discipline. It brings together many of the central figures in the debate with their most recent work on the semantics, epistemology, and methodology of metaphysics.

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Customer Reviews

Real philosophy for the philosophical consumer.This collection of essays puts together some of the greatest minds in contemporary philosophy.The topics are well-chosen, and the guidance it provides is golden.On first assessment, the article I most noticed was a piece on foundationalism

which was invigorating and very helpful.All of this coming from someone who writes books on philosophy himself.

This book brings together those at the forefront of metaphysics, and all of the papers are top-notch. I can’t possibly do as good a job as Elizabeth Barnes did in her NDPR review, so go read that.

When you read philosophy beyond the classics you notice right away that much of what is written is not for the purpose of developing novel theories but rather in the way of addressing (critically or otherwise) what others in the field have already asserted. This book is an excellent example of that process. Many of its 17 papers comment directly on one another.The collection broadly addresses two questions: What is metaphysics really about, and can metaphysics accomplish anything apart from intellectual gymnastics? The first theme is further decomposed into questions of what exists, how things exist, what grounds the reality (what makes it real) of what exists, and what is the structure of the world? There are papers addressing each of these over-lapping issues while other papers tackle the matter of whether any genuine insight can be had in metaphysics (particularly ontology) which, after all, is ultimately an attempt to uncover what is real in the world external to consciousness while bearing in mind that we (that is those making the attempt) are at all times trapped within the conscious perspective.Drs. Chalmers and Manley have assembled a diverse and illustrative collection of viewpoints on this specialized and understandably misunderstood sub-discipline of philosophy. All of the papers rely on some familiarity with the fundamentals of metaphysics and the way philosophical debate is conducted. Most are easily accessible with a little careful reading while a few are a little more technical. But on the whole this is a very accessible collection well worth the read if you have an interest in the subject.

excellent text and service

chalmers is a philosophy heavyweight now

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