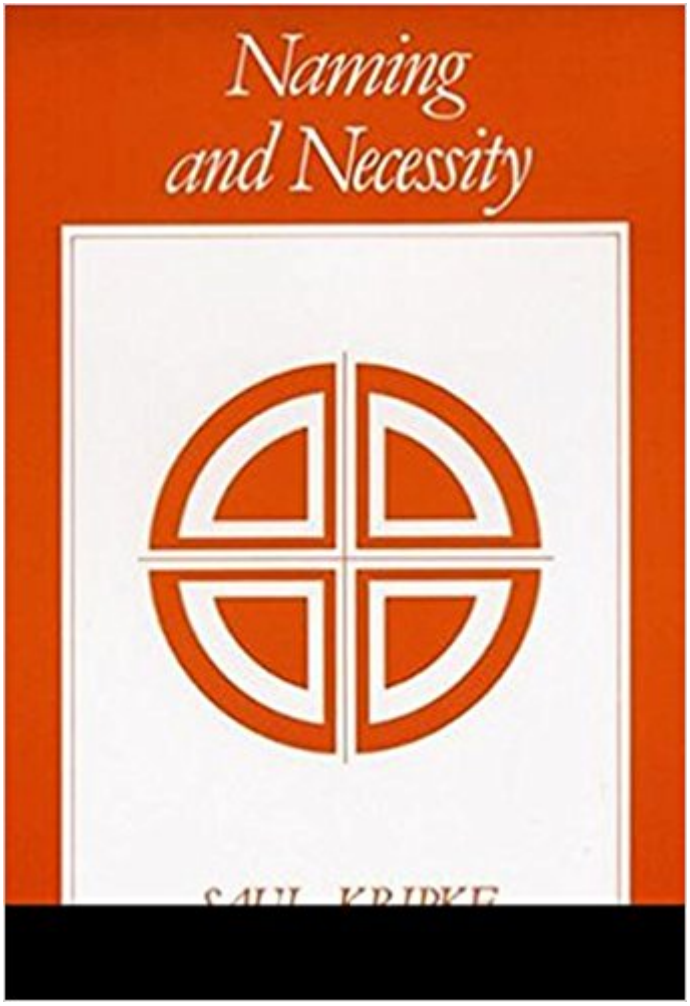
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Naming And Necessity



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Synopsis

Naming and Necessity has had a great and increasing influence. It redirected philosophical attention to neglected questions of natural and metaphysical necessity and to the connections between these and theories of naming, and of identity. This seminal work, to which today’s thriving essentialist metaphysics largely owes its impetus, is here reissued in a newly corrected form with a new preface by the author. If there is such a thing as essential reading in metaphysics, or in philosophy of language, this is it.

Book Information

Series: Library of Philosophy & Logic

Paperback: 184 pages

Publisher: Wiley-Blackwell; 1 edition (January 8, 1991)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0631128018

ISBN-13: 978-0631128014

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.6 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 35 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #43,802 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #33 inÃ Â Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Philosophy > Logic #50 inÃ Â Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Logic & Language #78 inÃ Â Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Linguistics

Customer Reviews

"Brilliant and very influential . . . stands up as an impressive and enduring work of philosophy, outstanding in its sweep, clarity and penetration."Ã¢â ¬â •Colin McGinn, Times Higher Education Supplement "When these lectures were first published eight years ago, they stood analytic philosophy on its ear. Everybody was either furious, or exhilarated, or thoroughly perplexed. No one was indifferent. This welcome republication provides a chance to look back at a modern classic, and to say something about why it was found so shocking and liberating."Ã¢â ¬â •Richard Rorty, London Review of Books

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essentialist metaphysics largely owes its impetus, is here reissued in a newly corrected form with a new preface by the author. If there is such a thing as essential reading in metaphysics, or in philosophy of language, this is it.

I believe Kripke was clever to realize that the classical theories of language were flawed. He provides a better picture of how language works with his causal theory, but did not convince me it worked. Instead, Kripke sparked interest within me to read other books on the philosophy of language.If these kind of books are fun to read, you should definitely also read books by Jerrold Katz, Ludwig Wittgenstein, and Noam Chomsky

Originally published in 1972, Saul Kripke's Naming and Necessity is a compilation of three lectures given by the author in January 1970 at Princeton University. Aside from transcripts of the lectures (with minor editing), the text includes a brief preface and postscript (or agenda as Kripke calls it) with some helpful points of clarification. Kripke is regarded by many as the pre-eminent philosopher of recent times- while Naming and Necessity is widely viewed as the most significant piece of post-Wittgenstein analytic philosophy.In the book Kripke discussion of a range of issues and questions that has altered the trajectory of modern philosophy including:* Accidental and essential properties,* Theories of reference (direct reference v. descriptivist)* Epistemic and metaphysical necessity (he poses the possibility of necessary a posteriori truth and contingent a priori truth)Readers unfamiliar (or rusty) with Kripke may find the pertinent chapters in Scott Soames' excellent Philosophical Analysis in the Twentieth Century, Volume 2: The Age of Meaning helpful in preparing to engage Naming and Necessity. The small text `On Kripke' in the Wadsworth series is also useful and even more introductory.Overall, this is an important work in analytic philosophy that would make a valuable addition to any collection. As with much modern philosophy in the analytic tradition familiarity with the genre and subject matter is a perquisite to fully understanding and appreciating the discussion (that said this book has a nice flow). My comments pertain to the 2005 reprint by Harvard.

Kripke's take on the the classic problems of meaning, names and identity follows a different path from that of Frege/Russell yet seems more intuitive. A good book for an introduction to the topic, as he deals nonchalantly with the mistaken assumptions of the past towards the essentialism of his modal metaphysics. This book helped re-orient modern philosophy and its message is still fresh.

No, really. Kripke maintains a vigorously-argued and important thesis here: the surprising conclusion that statements involving identity (e.g., when calling something or someone out by name) involve a posteriori necessity. This is quite striking because many have assumed that necessity was somehow substantially correlative with the a priori: but that involves a confusion of metaphysical necessity with epistemological necessity. With that idea in place, Kripke goes on to apply (all too briefly, unfortunately) it in some extremely thought-provoking--nay, well-nigh mind-blowing--ideas about things like natural kinds and the mind-body problem. I just wish he had gone into way more detail on these fascinating issues than the three oral lectures transcribed on these 180 or so pages.If you're reading this review, you've either a) already read this and I don't have to tell you how unique and important it is, or b) maybe have just taken an undergraduate philosophy course that had some lectures on Kripke, and are thinking about checking out the primary literature yourself. If the latter, do so. You'll be enriched, and you might just be taken on a journey from which you'll never return. Philosophers are still, and undoubtedly will continue for some time, discussing the thesis of _Naming and Necessity_ and its implications for at least philosophy of language and metaphysics, and probably philosophy of mind and philosophy of science as well.

Thank you

As a philosopher, this is one of the best books in the language of philosophy field and written by one of the most influential western philosophers.

Informal, highly readable, full of wit, this book is a transcript of three lectures delivered without notes at Princeton in 1970. Incisive, ground-breaking, enormously influential, it is a must read for anyone interested in the development of 20th century analytic philosophy and the topics of its title.

Kripke's work has influenced many philosopher throughout the decades.

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