

Editorial

After some probably avoidable delays in the appearance of RP37 we nearly return to schedule with this 'ordinary' issue of RP38, which contains a wide range of essays and reviews. We apologise to our readers for these delays and, through changes we are instituting, hope that they will not recur. The Collective has not been idle however and we are glad to announce the imminent arrival of a **RADICAL PHILOSOPHY READER**, a collection of notable articles from the pages of *Radical Philosophy*'s historical output. This joint venture with NLB/Verso Books will be in the bookshops in January and contains 21 articles from the early 1970s through to the present. With an introduction by Roy Edgley which contextualizes the development of the Radical Philosophy Movement, the book will be an invaluable guide to the other side of English Philosophy. Ranging from pieces on individual philosophers to discussions of philosophy and science, philosophy and gender, Marxism and morality, the Reader represents the diverse questions that have been debated in the pages of *Radical Philosophy* over the years. Radical Philosophy readers will be given an opportunity to buy the book at a special discount price and even to win a copy in our new moral philosophy competition (see below).

The articles in this issue have one major theme in common and that is a critical desire to subvert the obvious order of discourse of a pantheon of philosophical grand old men. Joanna Hodge most explicitly punctures what she sees as the pretensions, and the class and gender basis of those pretensions, of a number of leading twentieth-century Marxists including Adorno, Benjamin, Bloch, Lukacs and Marcuse. Jonathan Rée takes a usefully subversive look at Derridean pieties, at the misadventures of the metaphysic. Susan Easton, in what is likely to be a provocative move, argues that grounds for a feminist reading of Hegel's work may be found. She argues that the functionalist interpretation of Hegel's political thought, which attributes to Hegel a view of the family as natural and necessary, should be critically reviewed. Sheelagh Strawbridge sets out to throw light on Althusser's use of two key concepts, 'overdetermination' and 'structural causality', by explicating their origins in the work of Freud and Spinoza. She argues that the source of the difficulties in Althusser's usage reside in the tensions between the dualist ontology and epistemology of Freud and the thoroughgoing monism of Spinoza's philosophy. Finally Paul Bagguley outlines and criticises Anthony Giddens's theory of social change which, he suggests, was constructed as an alternative to historical materialism but which suffers from similar problems in terms of involving the major problems of all evolutionary theories of social change.

Coming this February

● **RADICAL PHILOSOPHY READER**

Edited by Roy Edgley and Richard Osborne

*Lucid, independent and polemical, this collection of essays by contributors to **Radical Philosophy** demonstrates a commitment to questions of ethics, truth and scientificity. Subjects covered include the work of individual philosophers, such as Kant, Hegel and Althusser; the realist position in the philosophy of science; morality and politics; and the relations between philosophy and gender. A group of sparkling **Confrontations** dissects fashionable trends in discourse theory, post-structuralism and neo-conservatism.*

Contributors:

Martin Barker • DC Wood • Chris Arthur • Jacques Ranciere • John Mepham • Roy Edgley • Ted Benton • Sean Sayers •

Richard Norman • John Krige • Joan Grimshaw • Alison Assiter • Tony Skillen • Jonathan Ree • Peter Dews • Andrew Belsey •

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