

**A. N. Whitehead and Social Theory**

Tracing a Culture of Thought

*Michael Halewood***Pub Date:** September 2011**Binding:** Hardback**Price:** £60 / \$99**ISBN:** 9780857287960**Extent:** 198 pages**Size:** 229 x 152mm; 9 x 6**Category:** PHILOSOPHY / Movements / Analytic**BISAC code:** PHI039000**BIC code:** JHBA**Rights Held:** World**Description**

**This book outlines A.N. Whitehead's philosophy of process, and uses it to re-orient a range of topics within social theory.**

'Michael Halewood's book is a brilliant exposition of the philosophy of A. N. Whitehead. Outstanding scholarship, combined with careful, sophisticated illustration, brings out the enormous relevance of Whitehead's radical process thinking for contemporary social theory and social scientific analysis.' —*Professor Mike Michael, Goldsmiths, University of London*

The contemporary importance of A. N. Whitehead (1861–1947) lies in his direct yet productive challenge to the culture of thought inherent in modernity, a challenge that suffuses science, social theory and philosophy alike. Unlike some of the more destructive aspects of postmodernism and poststructuralism, Whitehead's diagnosis of the conceptual fault lines of the modern era does not entail a passive relativism. Instead, he calls for a renewal of our concepts, offering a positive, philosophical approach based on becoming, relativity, and a reconception of subjectivity and the social. This book outlines Whitehead's philosophy, using it to reorient a range of specific questions and topics within contemporary social theory, namely: the relation of language and the body; the relationship between the individual and society; sexual difference; conceptions of nature; the question of realism; the concept of the social; and capitalism as a process. It also provides detailed analyses and comparisons of Whitehead's concepts with those of Judith Butler on materiality and the body, and of Luce Irigaray on nature, essentialism and sexual difference.

**Readership:** Advanced undergraduates, postgraduates (particularly taught MA courses), research students and academics in sociology, social theory and contemporary philosophy.

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**About the Author**

Michael Halewood is a Senior Lecturer in Social Theory at the University of Essex. He has published articles and chapters on Whitehead's relation to Deleuze, Badiou and Butler, as well as pieces on John Dewey, subjectivity and materiality, the body, language and sociality. He has also edited a special section of the journal *Theory, Culture and Society* dedicated to Whitehead, and is an International Academic Advisor to the Whitehead Research Project.

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