

The Power of Religion in the Public Sphere represents a rare opportunity to experience a diverse group of preeminent philosophers confronting one pervasive contemporary concern: what role does—or should—religion play in our public lives? Reflecting on her recent work concerning state violence in Israel-Palestine, **JUDITH BUTLER** explores the potential of religious perspectives for renewing cultural and political criticism, while **JÜRGEN HABERMAS**, best known for his seminal conception of the public sphere, thinks through the ambiguous legacy of the concept of “the political” in contemporary theory. **CHARLES TAYLOR** argues for a radical redefinition of secularism, and **CORNEL WEST** defends civil disobedience and emancipatory theology. **EDUARDO MENDIETA** and **JONATHAN VANANTWERPEN** detail the immense contribution of these philosophers to contemporary social and political theory, and an afterword by **CRAIG CALHOUN** places these attempts to reconceive the significance of both religion and the secular in the context of contemporary national and international politics.

JUDITH BUTLER is the Maxine Eliot Professor in the Department of Rhetoric and Comparative Literature at the University of California at Berkeley. Her books include *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*, *Antigone's Claim: Kinship Between Life and Death*, and *Subjects of Desire: Hegelian Reflections in Twentieth-Century France*. **JÜRGEN HABERMAS** is a German philosopher and sociologist. His recent works include *The Future of Human Nature*, *The Divided West*, and *Between Naturalism and Religion: Philosophical Essays*. **CHARLES TAYLOR** is a Canadian philosopher and professor emeritus of political science and philosophy at McGill University and a recipient of the Templeton Prize and the Kyoto Prize. His recent books include *Varieties of Religion Today: William James Revisited*, *Modern Social Imaginaries* and *A Secular Age*. **CORNEL WEST** is Class of 1943 University Professor at Princeton University, where he teaches in the Center for African American studies and the Department of Religion. His recent books include *Democracy Matters: Winning the Fight Against Imperialism* and *Brother West: Living and Loving Out Loud*.

EDUARDO MENDIETA is professor of philosophy at the State University of New York, Stony Brook, and the author of *The Adventures of Transcendental Philosophy* and *Global Fragments: Globalizations, Latinamericanisms, and Critical Theory*. **JONATHAN VANANTWERPEN** is director of the program on religion and the public sphere at the Social Science Research Council, a visiting scholar at New York University's Institute for Public Knowledge, and coeditor of *Varieties of Secularism in a Secular Age*. **CRAIG CALHOUN** is president of the Social Science Research Council and University Professor of the Social Sciences at New York University. His most recent works are *Nations Matter: Culture, History, and the Cosmopolitan Dream* and an edited collection titled *Robert K. Merton: Sociology of Science and Sociology as Science*.