

## Philosophical Hermeneutics Hans Georg Gadamer

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### Philosophical Hermeneutics Hans Georg Gadamer

**Lectures on Philosophical Hermeneutics** Hans-Georg Gadamer 1982
**Introduction to Philosophical Hermeneutics** Jean Grondin 1994-01-01 In this wide-ranging historical introduction to philosophical hermeneutics, Jean Grondin discusses the major figures from Philo to Habermas, analyzes conflicts between various interpretive schools, and provides a persuasive critique of Gadamer’s view of hermeneutic history, though in other ways Gadamer’s Truth and Method serves as a model for Grondin’s approach. Grondin begins with brief overviews of the pre-nineteenth-century thinkers Philo, Origen, Augustine, Luther, Flacius, Dannhauer, Chladenius, Meier, Rambach, Ast, and Schlegel. Next he provides more extensive treatments of such major nineteenth-century figures as Schleiermacher, Böckh, Droysen, and Dilthey. There are full chapters devoted to Heidegger and Gadamer as well as shorter discussions of Betti, Habermas, and Derrida. Because he is the first to pay close attention to pre-Romantic figures, Grondin is able to show that the history of hermeneutics cannot be viewed as a gradual, steady progression in the direction of complete universalization. His book makes it clear that even in the early period, hermeneutic thinkers acknowledged a universal aspect in interpretation--that long before Schleiermacher, hermeneutics was philosophical and not merely practical. In revising and correcting the standard account, Grondin’s book is not merely introductory but revisionary, suitable for beginners as well as advanced students in the field.

**Gadamer’s Repercussions** Andrew Bowie 2004 "Gadamer’s Repercussions is a terrific collection of essays. While Gadamer is not the most precise of philosophers, he turns out, in this book at least, to be among the most generative. The essays prove that Gadamer’s idealizing of dialogue can actually be put in practice by careful attention to the frameworks he addresses. I was most impressed by the essays that situate his ethics, his aesthetics, his relation to romanticism, his understanding of the relation of law and morality, his engagements with Fascism, and several aspects of his vexed relationship with postmodern thinking, especially on the possibility of dialogue.”–Charles Altieri, author of The Particulars of Rapture "Gadamer is well known for his insistence that every reading is a new reading and every act of understanding a pathway to new understanding. Krajewski’s carefully assembled volume applies these maxims to the understanding of Gadamer himself. By focusing on his intellectual and political background as well as his long-range influence and repercussions, the book opens new vistas for assessing one of the philosophical giants of the twentieth century.”–Fred Dallmayr, author of Dialogue Among Civilizations

**Gadamer in Conversation** Hans-Georg Gadamer 2001-01-01 This volume presents six lively conversations with Hans-Georg Gadamer (born 1900), one of the twentieth century’s master philosophers. Looking back over his life and thought, Gadamer takes up key issues in his philosophy, addresses points of controversy, and replies to his critics, including those who accuse him of having been in complicity with the Nazis. A genial and direct conversationalist, Gadamer is here captured at his best and most accessible. The interviews took place between 1989 and 1996, and all but one appear in English for the first time in this volume. The first three conversations, conducted by Heidelberg philosopher Carsten Dutt, deal with hermeneutics, aesthetics, and practical philosophy and the question of ethics. In a fourth conversation, with University of Heidelberg Classics professor Glenn W. Most, Gadamer argues for the vital importance of the Greeks for our contemporary thinking. In the next, the philosopher reaffirms his connection with phenomenology and clarifies his relation to Husserl and Heidegger in a conversation with London philosopher Alfons Grieder. In the final interview, with German Nazi expert Dorte von Westernhagen, Gadamer describes his life

*Political Hermeneutics* Robert R. Sullivan 1989 A distinct logic to Gadamer’s early writings makes them more than mere precursors to the mature thought that appeared in Truth and Method. They contain their own, new and different, “philosophical hermeneutics” and are worth reading with a fresh eye. The young Gadamer began his publication career by arguing that Plato’s ethical writings did not “express” doctrine but rather depended upon the “play” of language among speakers in an ethical discourse community. This was the key idea of Plato’s Dialectical Ethics, Gadamer’s first book. Following the classical formula of seeing politics as the continuation of ethics, Gadamer’s writings in the 1930s and 1940s concentrated on the Platonic idea of the state and argued two key points. First, the exiling of poets from the city was a way of banishing monologue and clearing the way for a dialogue as the language form appropriate to political discourse communities. Second, the Platonic state’s defining task was the educational one of shaping the soul, and this could not be achieved monologically but rather had to take place as a dialogical play between the educator and the soul. The mature philosophical hermeneutics of Truth and Method is a metaphor taken from the literary experience of constructing textual meaning out of the play of parts and whole. The philosophical hermeneutics of Gadamer’s early writings rests on a play between the ethical whole initially the Gestalt figure of the “Platonic Socrates” but later the Platonic state and the individual soul in need of ethical guidance. There is no conflict between the early and the later hermeneutics, but the early hermeneutics retain a freshness of spirit and boldness of interpretation that is characteristic of the Weimar culture of Gadamer’s Marburg youth.From beginning to end, Gadamer’s early writings remind us that Plato’s dialogues really do record the conversational essence of Western philosophy at its birth.

**Hans-Georg Gadamer on Education, Poetry, and History** Hans-Georg Gadamer 1992-01-01 In these essays, appearing for the first time in English, Gadamer addresses practical questions about recent politics in Europe, about education and university reform, and about the role of poetry in the modern world. This book also includes a series of interviews that the editors conducted in 1986. Gadamer elaborates on his experiences in education and politics, touching on the collapse of the Weimar Republic, the early Frankfurt School, Heidegger and the Nazis, university life in East Germany, and the prospects for Europe in the coming years. Hans-Georg Gadamer was probably Heidegger’s leading interpreter in Germany, and in the 1950s and 1960s he became the world’s leading exponent of hermeneutics. His hermeneutical theory explains how it is that ancient art and philosophy still speak to us today. His influential idea of the “fusion of horizons” also shows how it is that we understand what is remote form our own culture.

**Gadamer and Ricoeur** Francis J. Mootz III 2011-06-16 >

**The Relevance of the Beautiful and Other Essays** Hans-Georg Gadamer 1986 These essays explore Hans-Georg Gadamer’s writings on art and literature in English.

*Gadamer for Architects* Paul Kidder 2013 "Providing a concise and accessible introduction to the work of the twentieth century’s celebrated German philosopher, Hans-Georg Gadamer, this book focuses on the aspects of Gadamer’s philosophy that have been the most influential among architects, educators in architecture, and architectural theorists. Gadamer’s philosophy of art gives a special place to the activity of “play” as it occurs in artistic creation, in language, and in thinking. His ideas on the function of symbols and meaning in art draw upon his teacher, Martin Heidegger, while developing further the applicability of Heideggerian thinking. His theory of interpretation, or “philosophical hermeneutics” offers profound ways to understand the influence of the past upon the present, and to appropriate the past in ever new forms. Gadamer’s sensitivity to the way that theory arises out of practice and must maintain its relevance to practice gives his thought a remarkable usefulness and applicability. For architects, architectural theorists, architectural historians, and undergraduate and postgraduate students of architecture, Gadamer’s thinking opens a world of possibilities for understanding how building today can be rich with human meaning, relating to architecture’s history in an insightful manner that does not merely repeat nor merely repudiate that history”--

**Hermeneutics as an Ontology of Understanding** Benny Thekkumkattil (H.G.N.) 2003

**Truth and Method** Hans-Georg Gadamer 2013-06-27 Truth and Method is a landmark work of 20th century thought which established Hans Georg-Gadamer as one of the most important philosophical voices of the 20th Century. In this book, Gadamer established the field of 'philosophical hermeneutics': exploring the nature of knowledge, the book rejected traditional quasi-scientific approaches to establishing cultural meaning that were prevalent after the war. In arguing the 'truth' and 'method' acted in opposition to each other, Gadamer examined the ways in which historical and cultural circumstance fundamentally influenced human understanding. It was an approach that would become hugely influential in the humanities and social sciences and remains so to this day in the work of Jurgen Habermas and many others.

**A Century of Philosophy** Hans-Georg Gadamer 2006-02-27 A philosophical and historical testament to the twentieth century, this volume consists of a wide-ranging series of interviews conducted in 1999/2000 between the then centenarian and his former assistant and associate of over thirty years, Riccardo Dottori. These ten dialogues distill and situate Gadamer’s philosophy in the context of what has arguably been the bloodiest century in human history. In the course of the interviews, Gadamer addresses-often critically-the work of a wide variety of philosophers, including Heidegger, Nietzsche, Jaspers, Popper, Vico, Habermas, Rorty, and Derrida. He also elaborates on German philosophy during the Nazi period; and, in one of the more fascinating conversations, we are treated to a glimpse of Gadamer’s personal perspective on the question of Heidegger’s Nazism, including a discussion of the political influence that great philosopher’s wife, Elfirde, had on him that tends to contradict most other published accounts. With the possible exception of his autobiography 1985, A Century of Philosophy is perhaps the most accessible expression of Gadamer’s life and work in English today.

**Inheriting Gadamer** Georgia Warnke 2016-02-25 Hans-Georg Gadamer’s philosophical hermeneutics - one of the seminal philosophies of the 20th century - has had a profound influence on a wide array of fields, including classical philology, theology, the philosophy of the social sciences, literary theory, philosophy of law, critical social theory and the philosophy of art. This collection expands on some of these areas and takes his hermeneutics into yet new fields including narrative medicine, biotechnology, the politics of memory, the philosophy of place and the non-verbal language of the body. And, building on Gadamer’s well-known discussions with Heidegger, Habermas and Derrida, Inheriting Gadamer sets him in dialogue with Mahatma Gandhi, Christine Korsgaard, Charles Mills and others. In these ways, the volume holds fast to a Gadamerian virtue: cultivating our important philosophical traditions while embracing the constant need to re-think their meaning in new circumstances and in relation to new knowledge.

*The Gadamer Dictionary* Chris Lawn 2011-04-28 The Gadamer Dictionary is a comprehensive and accessible guide to the world of Hans-Georg Gadamer. Meticulously researched and extensively cross-referenced, this unique book covers all his major works, ideas and influences and provides a firm grounding in the central themes of Gadamer’s thought. Students will discover a wealth of useful information, analysis and criticism. A-Z entries include clear definitions of all the key terms used in Gadamer’s writings and detailed synopses of his key works, including his magnum opus, Truth and Method. The Dictionary also includes entries on Gadamer’s major philosophical influences, from Plato to Heidegger, and his contemporaries, including Derrida and Habermas. It covers everything that is essential to a sound understanding of Gadamer’s 'philosophical hermeneutics', offering clear and accessible explanations of often complex terminology. The Gadamer Dictionary is the ideal resource for anyone reading or studying Gadamer or Modern European Philosophy more generally.

**Hans-Georg Gadamer** Jon Nixon 2017-02-16 This book provides an introduction to Hans-Georg Gadamer’s thinking and shows how it might inform our own thinking about education as a lifelong process of engaging with one another and with the wider world. He insisted on the supreme importance of prior learning, but also on the unpredictability of human understanding and on the possibility of new and unforeseeable beginnings. Having lived through the catastrophe of two world wars, he became an important voice in the debate on the future of a reunified Germany and the role of the university in shaping the values and outlook of the new Europe. His work is of immense significance for all those involved in the education of future generations. ‘In Gadamer: The Hermeutical Imagination, Jon Nixon has pulled off quite a feat. In his customary lucid, accessible and dialogical style, we are treated to a masterly tour that both opens the complex thinking of Hans-Georg Gadamer and draws out its implications for our understanding of education. In the process, a strong critique emerges of contemporary instrumental approaches to education. Many will assuredly gain much from this enjoyable text, both those interested in Gadamer as such and those working in the philosophy of education.’ Ronald Barnett, Emeritus Professor of Higher Education, UCL Institute of Education, UK ‘This book simultaneously invites the reader to engage with the transformative potential of education and provokes the reader to imagine an educational landscape that values freedom, democracy and authenticity. Jon Nixon skilfully and eloquently draws the reader into the philosophies, life and legacy of Hans-Goerg Gadamer, a key thinker of the 20th century. Meticulously researched, this original study offers a biographical insight as well as critical commentary on Gadamer’s contribution to wider educational debates. An impressive contribution to the field.’ Tanya Fitzgerald, Professor of History of Education, La Trobe University, Australia ‘Gadamer: The Hermeneutical Imagination provides an excellent introduction to Gadamer’s key ideas. Jon Nixon draws his readers into a conversation with Gadamer, inviting them to imagine the possibility of applying Gadamer’s hermeneutical philosophy to their own educational practice. It is essential reading for all those who have an interest in – and commitment to – the future of education.’ Feng Su, Senior Lecturer in Education, Liverpool Hope University, UK

**Unfinished Worlds** Nicholas Davey 2013-11-18 Gadamer’s aesthetics demonstrates that the experience of art is grounded in the objectivities of language, history and

tradition. By treating words and images as transmittable placeholders for meanings and concepts, hermeneutics gives a persuasive account of how artworks communicate. Davey demonstrates how hermeneutics transforms aesthetic reflection into a poignant attentive practice that is open to the unexpected. This new “poetics” is relevant not only to the understanding of art but also to showing, explaining and defending the cognitive content of the humanities. Hermeneutic aesthetics provides a sound basis for re-thinking humanities disciplines as critical-creative practices able to re-envision the future.

*Gadamer: A Guide for the Perplexed* Chris Lawn 2006-06-23 Providing an account of Gadamer’s hermeneutics, this book includes an exposition and analysis of such key terms as 'fusion of horizons', 'effective historical consciousness' and 'the logic of question and answer', as well as Gadamer's redefinition of such concepts as 'prejudice', 'authority' and 'tradition'.

**Gadamer’s Hermeneutics and the Art of Conversation** Andrzej Wiercinski 2011 Gadamer’s Hermeneutics and the Art of Conversation covers the nature of dialogue and understanding in Hans-Georg Gadamer’s lingually oriented hermeneutics and its relevance for contemporary philosophy. This timely collection of essays stresses the fundamental significance of the other for a further development of Heidegger’s analytics of Dasein. By recognizing the priority of the other over oneself, Gadamerian hermeneutics finds a culture of dialogue sorely needed in our multi-cultural globalized community. The essays solicited for this volume are presented in three thematic blocks: "Hermeneutic Conversation," "Hermeneutics, Aesthetics, and Transcendence," "Hermeneutic Ethics, Education, and Politics." The volume proposes a dynamic understanding of hermeneutics as putting into practice the art of conversation.

**Gadamer’s Century** Jeff Malpas 2002-01-18 Philosopher Hans-Georg Gadamer has made major contributions to aesthetic theory, Plato and Hegel studies, humanistic studies, and the philosophy of history. A student of Martin Heidegger, Gadamer took up and developed a number of central Heideggerian insights. He also had productive public debates with contemporaries such as Emilio Betti and Jürgen Habermas. The shape of contemporary hermeneutics is due almost entirely to Gadamer’s influence, and his magnum opus, Truth and Method, is considered one of the great philosophical works of the twentieth century.This book is dedicated to Gadamer in honor of his hundredth birthday, in 2000. The essays provide a measure of the classical character of Gadamer’s work by showing the breadth of engagement his ideas have provoked. As in Gadamer’s own life and work, dialogue and conversation figure as important themes in all of the essays. While they encompass a diversity of philosophical perspectives, interests, and styles, the essays also suggest the ever-present possibility of dialogue across language and tradition and of the formation of new modes of discourse and philosophizing.

**Hans-Georg Gadamer** Jean Grondin 2011-06-23 Hans-Georg Gadamer (1900-2002) was one of the greatest philosophers of our era. He was also at the center of some of the century’s darkest, most complex historical events, for he chose to remain in his native Germany in the 1930s, neither supporting Hitler nor actively opposing him, but negotiating instead an unpolitical position that allowed him to continue his philosophical work. In this magisterial book, Jean Grondin appraises Gadamer’s life and achievement. Drawing on countless interviews with Gadamer and his contemporaries, Gadamer’s personal correspondence, and extensive archival research, Grondin traces Gadamer’s life as an academician and the development of his ideas, placing them in the context of his times. He sheds light on the genesis and accomplishment of Gadamer’s major opus, Truth and Method, the bible of modern-day hermeneutics. And he addresses the question of Gadamer’s attitude and actions amid the catastrophe of Nazi Germany, painting a balanced portrait of a scholar who tried to preserve German culture and tradition in the face of an invasive menace.

**Hermeneutics between History and Philosophy** Hans-Georg Gadamer 2016-05-19 Hermeneutics between History and Philosophy collects together Gadamer’s remaining important untranslated writings on the problem of history and the major philosophical traditions of the 20th century from the standpoint of hermeneutics. In these writings, Gadamer examines important thinkers as Husserl, Heidegger, Sartre, Bourdieu and Habermas and their ongoing legacies. This volume also includes a preface by the editors, who are also the translators, presenting the structure of the volume, a substantial introductionsituating Gadamer’s particular project and examining the place of hermeneutics vis-a-vis the disciplines of history and philosophy in the 20th century. The translation is followed by a glossary of German terms and Greek and Latin expressions, as well as a bibliography of all the works cited and alluded to by Gadamer.

**Praise of Theory** Hans-Georg Gadamer 1998-01-01 This collection of speeches and essays clarifies Gadamer’s thoughts on the power of language, the social role and influence of science, and the idea of reason. He argues that the theoretical pursuit of truth is valuable for its own sake, and devalued when pursued explicitly for practical purposes.

**Hermeneutics and the Voice of the Other** James Risser Elucidates the major components of Gadamer’s philosophical hermeneutics found in his later work.

*The Philosophy of Hans-Georg Gadamer* Hans-Georg Gadamer 1997 Hans-Georg Gadamer is one of the leading exponents of hermeneutics, with a formidable influence on thinking in the humanities. The two main foci of his work have been Greek philosophy, especially Plato, and hermeneutics, but his influences range through many sources, from Kant to Heidegger. This volume contains Gadamer’s intellectual autobiography, essays by leading philosophers, Gadamer’s replies to each essay, and a bibliography of Gadamer’s writings.

*Language and Linguisticality in Gadamer’s Hermeneutics* Hans-Georg Gadamer 2000 In this book, internationally recognized scholars in philosophical hermeneutics discuss various aspects of language and linguisticality. The translations of Hans-Georg Gadamer’s two recent essays provoke a preliminary discussion on the philosopher’s polemic claim in Truth and Method--"Being that can be understood is language." Topics addressed by the contributors include the relationship of rituals to tradition and the immemorial; the unity of the word; conversation; translation and conceptuality; and the interrelationship between the art of writing and linguisticality. This work is of critical importance to anyone interested in Gadamer’s claims regarding the boundaries of language, the transition from the prelinguistic to linguistic realms, and the role of rituals in this transition.

*Philosophical Hermeneutics* Hans-Georg Gadamer 2008-07-08 Published in German during the last 15 years, the 13 essays in this volume provide readers with valuable knowledge of the much discussed theme of hermeneutics today. Gadamer was an early student of Martin Heidegger and has been a lifelong friend and interpreter. These essays are an outgrowth of Gadamer’s Truth and Method. They can be understood, however, independently of it. Gadamer’s standpoint is a blend of Hegel’s and Heidegger’s, with his own independent development in part. The book contains a long and highly competent introduction by the editor, David E. Linge, who has translated most of the essays. - Choice, on back cover.

**Hans-Georg Gadamer’s Philosophical Hermeneutics in the Philosophy of Education** 2016

**Feminist Interpretations of Hans-Georg Gadamer** Lorraine Code 2010-11-01

**Philosophical Hermeneutics** Hans-Georg Gadamer 1977 ‘This volume presents carefully selected essays from Gadamer’s Kleine Schriften. The seven essays comprising Part 1 contain Gadamer’s discussion of hermeneutical reflection. Part 2 consists of six essays dealing with phenomenology, existential philosophy, and philosophical hermeneutics.

**Hans-Georg Gadamer’s defense of philosophical hermeneutics** Clark Edward A. Lunas 2006

**Hermeneutics as an Ontology of Understanding** Benny Thekkumkattil 2003

*Gadamer* Georgia Warnke 2013-05-29 Hans-Georg Gadamer is one of the leading philosophers in the worldtoday. His philosophical hermeneutics has had a major impact in awide range of disciplines, including the social sciences, literarycriticism, theology and jurisprudence. Truth and Method, is widely recognised to be one of the great classics oftwentieth-century thought. In this book Georgia Warnke provides a clear and systematicexposition of Gadamer’s work, as well as a balanced and thoughtfulassessment of his views. Warnke gives particular attention to theways in which Gadamer’s work has been taken up and criticised byliterary critics, social theorists and philosophers, such asHirsch, Habermas and Rorty. She thus provides an introduction toGadamer which demonstrates the relevance of his work to currentdebates in a variety of disciplines. This book will be invaluable to students and specialists throughoutthe humanities and social sciences, as well as to anyone who isinterested in the most important developments in contemporarythought.

*The Past and Future in Hans-Georg Gadamer’s Philosophical Hermeneutics* Michael R. Young 2004

*Gadamer’s Century* Hans Georg Gadamer 2002 A wide-ranging collection of philosophical essays in honor of Hans-Georg Gadamer.

**Hans-Georg Gadamer** Robert Kaufman 1984

*Preaching with a Cupped Ear* Jeffrey Francis Bullock 1999 For the last twenty-five years, practitioners of what has come to be known as the New Homiletic have attempted to discover a way through the -crisis- of preaching to -new effectiveness-. However, New Homileticians continue to locate their efforts in a representational view of language. This study analyzes and evaluates current views of language and preaching and then juxtaposes them with views of language and communication articulated by the contemporary German philosopher Hans-Georg Gadamer. This revised homiletic moves beyond constraints imposed by contemporary homiletical theory’s language commitments to a unique appropriation of conversation as a means of facilitating an experience (“Erfahrung”) with the word."

**Gadamer’s Hermeneutics** Robert J. Dostal 2022-01-15 In Gadamer’s Hermeneutics Robert J. Dostal provides a comprehensive and critical account of Hans-Georg Gadamer’s hermeneutical philosophy, arguing that Gadamer’s enterprise is rooted in the thesis that “being that can be understood is language.” He defends Gadamer against charges of linguistic idealism and emphasizes language’s relationship to understanding, though he criticizes Gadamer for too often ignoring the role of the prelinguistic in our experience. Dostal goes on to explain the concept of the “inner word” for Gadamer’s account of language. The book situates Gadamer’s hermeneutics in three important ways: in relation to the contestability of the legacy of the Enlightenment project; in relation to the work of his mentor, Martin Heidegger; and in relation to Gadamer’s reading of Plato and Aristotle. Dostal explores both Gadamer’s claim on the Enlightenment and his ambivalence toward it. He considers Gadamer’s dependence on Heidegger’s accomplishment while pointing out the ways in which Gadamer charted his own course, rejecting his teacher’s reading of Plato and his antihumanism. Dostal points out notable differences in the philosophers’ politics as well. Finally, Dostal mediates between Gadamer’s hermeneutics and what might be called philological hermeneutics. His analysis defends the civic humanism that is the culmination of the philosopher’s hermeneutics, a humanism defined by moral education, common sense, judgment, and taste. Supporters and critics of Gadamer’s philosophy will learn much from this major achievement.

**Truth and Method** Hans-Georg Gadamer 1989

**Festivals of Interpretation** Kathleen Wright 1990-01-01 This book engages and clarifies concepts crucial to Hans-Georg Gadamer’s philosophical hermeneutics, including the concepts of effective-history, tradition, dialogue, and language. Festivals of Interpretation exhibits the universal scope of hermeneutics. The authors respond to three questions often raised about Gadamer’s philosophical hermeneutics. Part One takes up the question of how Gadamer understands truth. It discusses how hermeneutical truth relates to methods, how truth may be thought to be historically conditioned without at the same time being relative, and how a truthful interpretation can produce a new understanding while simultaneously remaining faithful to the text. Part Two brings out the political, legal, and social relevance of Gadamer’s philosophical hermeneutics by focusing on the role interpretation plays in times of political crisis, of disputes in Constitutional law, of changing ideas of societal needs such as health care, and of increased technological control of public opinion. The last question often asked about Gadamer’s work concerns its relation to poetry. Part Three treats the challenge posed to philosophy by poetry in general and particularly by the poetry of Paul Celan as well as questions raised recently by Jacques Derrida about different ways of thinking about interpretation and text.

**Hermeneutics: A Very Short Introduction** Jens Zimmermann 2015-10-22 Hermeneutics is the branch of knowledge that deals with interpretation, a behaviour that is intrinsic to our daily lives. As humans, we decipher the meaning of newspaper articles, books, legal matters, religious texts, political speeches, emails, and even dinner conversations every day . But how is knowledge mediated through these forms? What constitutes the process of interpretation? And how do we draw meaning from the world around us so that we might understand our position in it? In this Very Short Introduction Jens Zimmermann traces the history of hermeneutic theory, setting out its key elements, and demonstrating how they can be applied to a broad range of disciplines: theology; literature; law; and natural and social sciences. Demonstrating the longstanding and wide-ranging necessity of interpretation, Zimmermann reveals its significance in our current social and political landscape. ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject

quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.