



Nietzsche's Philosophy of Nature and Cosmology (American University Studies)

By Alistair Moles

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Nietzsche's doctrine of the «eternal recurrence of the same» - the conception that the universe of events repeats itself in the same sequence, to infinity - is often taken to be logically incoherent: if an event recurs, it is not identically the same as the event itself, and if taken as self-identical cannot be the recurrence of anything. This book offers a new interpretation of the doctrine so as to rescue it from the charge of incoherence. It shows that the doctrine is an outgrowth of ideas found in Nietzsche's philosophy of nature, among them that space is Riemannian (finite yet without external boundary) and that time is relative to events, not an independently existing continuum which underlies events.

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Editorial Review

Review

«Moles'book is an impressive attempt to work out the cosmology suggested by Nietzsche's numerous but scattered observations and suggestions concerning force, space, time, power and power-relationships, and culminating in his conception of the world in terms of 'will to power' and in his idea of 'eternal recurrence'. This book is a welcome contribution to the literature, and will have to be reckoned with by anyone who is concerned to do justice to the full range of Nietzsche's philosophical thinking.» (Richard Schacht, Executive Director, North American Nietzsche Society, Professor and Chair, Department of Philosophy, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

«Moles is very learned in the subject matters and the concepts characteristic of Nietzsche's views. Moreover, he is very knowledgeable of the different interpretations of other scholars as well. This makes his book encyclopedic in nature, because one learns about who-is-saying-what.» (Prof. William R. Frost, Exploration)

«...Moles undertakes a serious, scholarly, responsible, innovative interpretation of Nietzsche's philosophy of nature. In preparation for doing so, he has read (and understood) virtually every relevant work on this complex topic. ... He offers original interpretations of the concept of necessity, the conception of space and time, and the cosmological foundation of the idea of eternal recurrence. So thorough is his treatment of these aspects of Nietzsche's philosophy of nature that anyone offering a commentary on it will first have to wend his or her way through Moles' labyrinthine study. ... Moles' study is surely the most thorough, most detailed and conscientious account of the 'scientific' aspect of the philosophy of Nietzsche extant in English.»

(George J. Stack, International Studies in Philosophy)

«How refreshing it is to see a writer who is willing to find more in Nietzsche than a post-Kantian or an aesthete and to show beyond a doubt his consonancy with some of the best modern physical theory. Any writer and scholar who is concerned to study the connection between Nietzsche's cosmology and his other ideas, such as the aesthetic and moral, will find that Moles has saved him or her several years of work - and ought to be very grateful, as I am.» (William Plank, The Montana Professor)

«Moles skriver klart och tydligt och hans verk är ett imponerande arbete... Moles' bok är detaljerad och mycket omfattande.» (Thomas H. Brobjer, Lychnos)

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