

# **Angst, serenity and the différance of Derrida**

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**8th Derrida Today Conference, 2024**

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, 14 June 2024



Angst: experience and concept

Angst and the supplement of serenity

Forms and means

The promise of différance



The status of existential philosophy

Descriptive ?

Prescriptive ?

→ Concrete fruits of existential philosophy

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supplement



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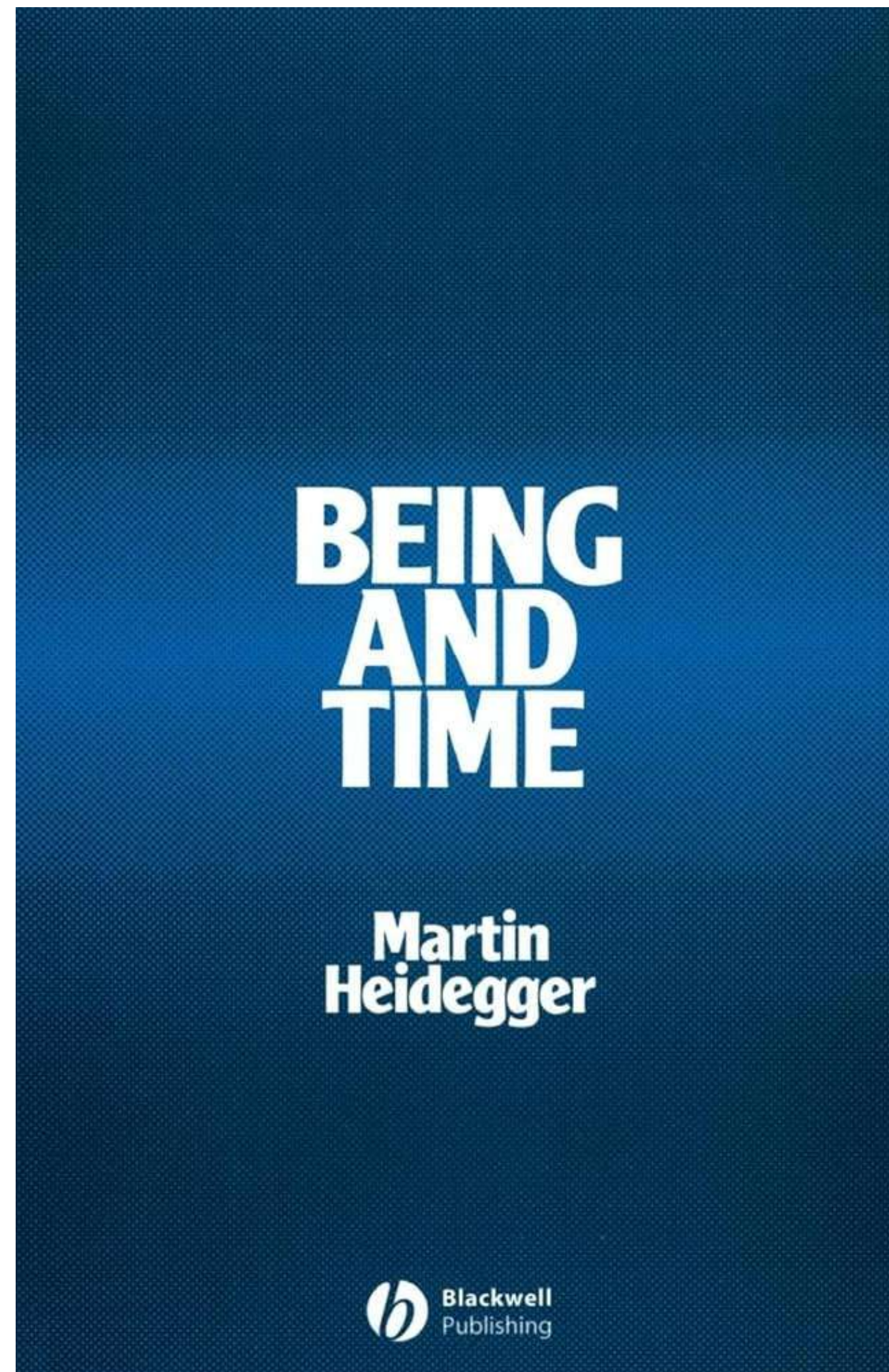
→ Anxiety: seeking its own attenuation?

Writing Traces

→ Serenity: an avatar of anxiety?

A photograph of a long, arched tunnel with stone walls and railway tracks. The tunnel is illuminated by a bright light at the end, creating a strong perspective. The walls are made of large, rectangular stone blocks, and the floor is covered with gravel and tracks. The lighting is dramatic, with the light source at the far end of the tunnel creating a bright starburst effect and casting long shadows. The overall atmosphere is one of depth and mystery.

1. Angst and the supplement of serenity



## ANGST    DESCRIPTIVE APPROACH

*sorge* (care)

*besorgen* (concern)

*fürsorge* (solicitude)

“(...) having to do with something, producing something, attending to something and looking after it, making use of something, giving something up and letting it go, undertaking, accomplishing, evincing, interrogating, considering, discussing, determining...”

*Being and Time*, § 12 (tr. Macquarrie & Robinson), p. 83







ANGST DESCRIPTIVE APPROACH

consciousness  
negation

“There exists a specific consciousness of freedom, and we wished to show that this consciousness is anguish.”

*Being and Nothingness* (tr. Barnes), p. 57

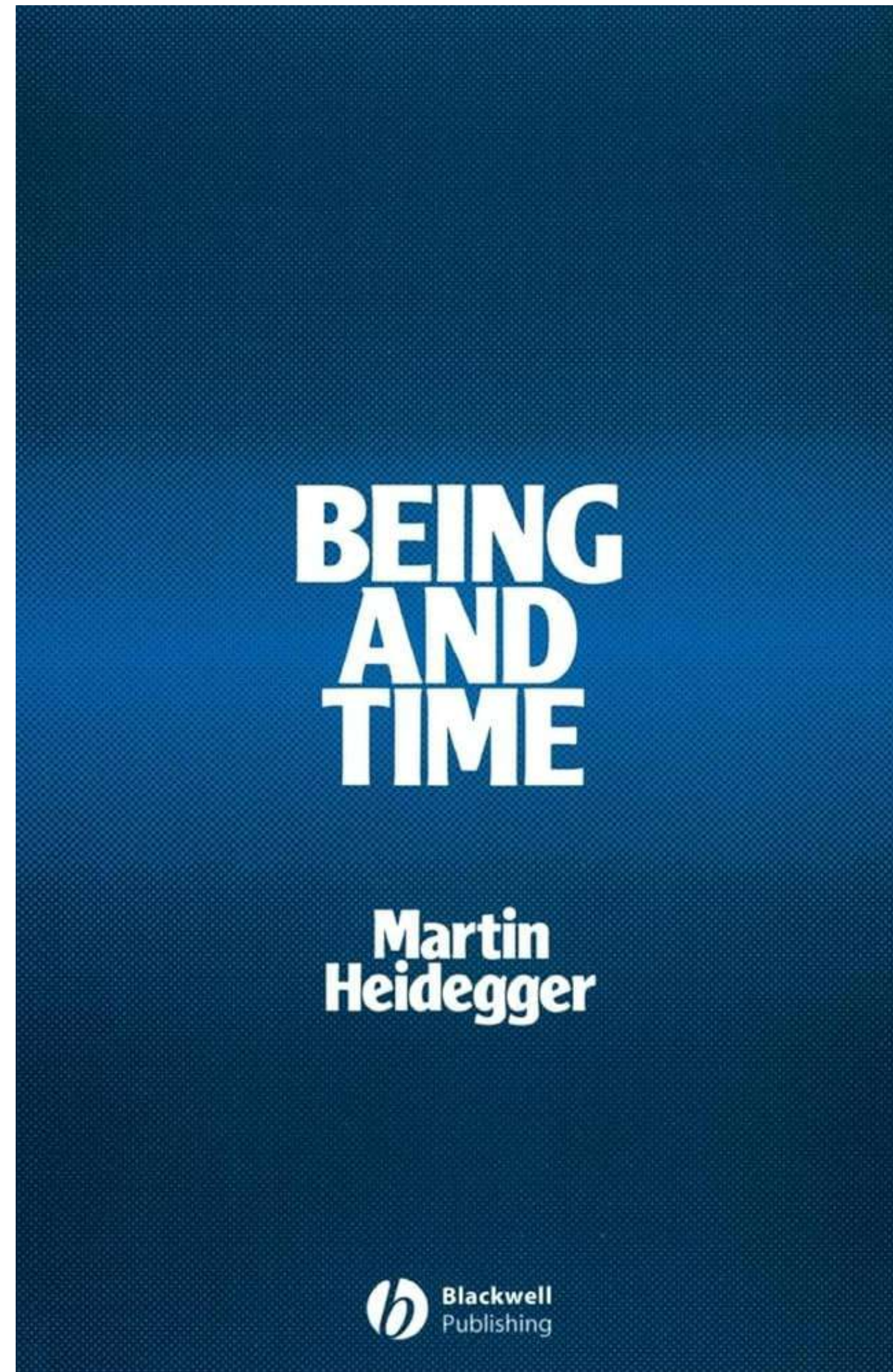


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## ANGST    PRESCRIPTIVE APPROACH

Authenticity (*Eigentlichkeit*)  
→ Resoluteness (*Entschlossenheit*)

*Being and Time*, § 62

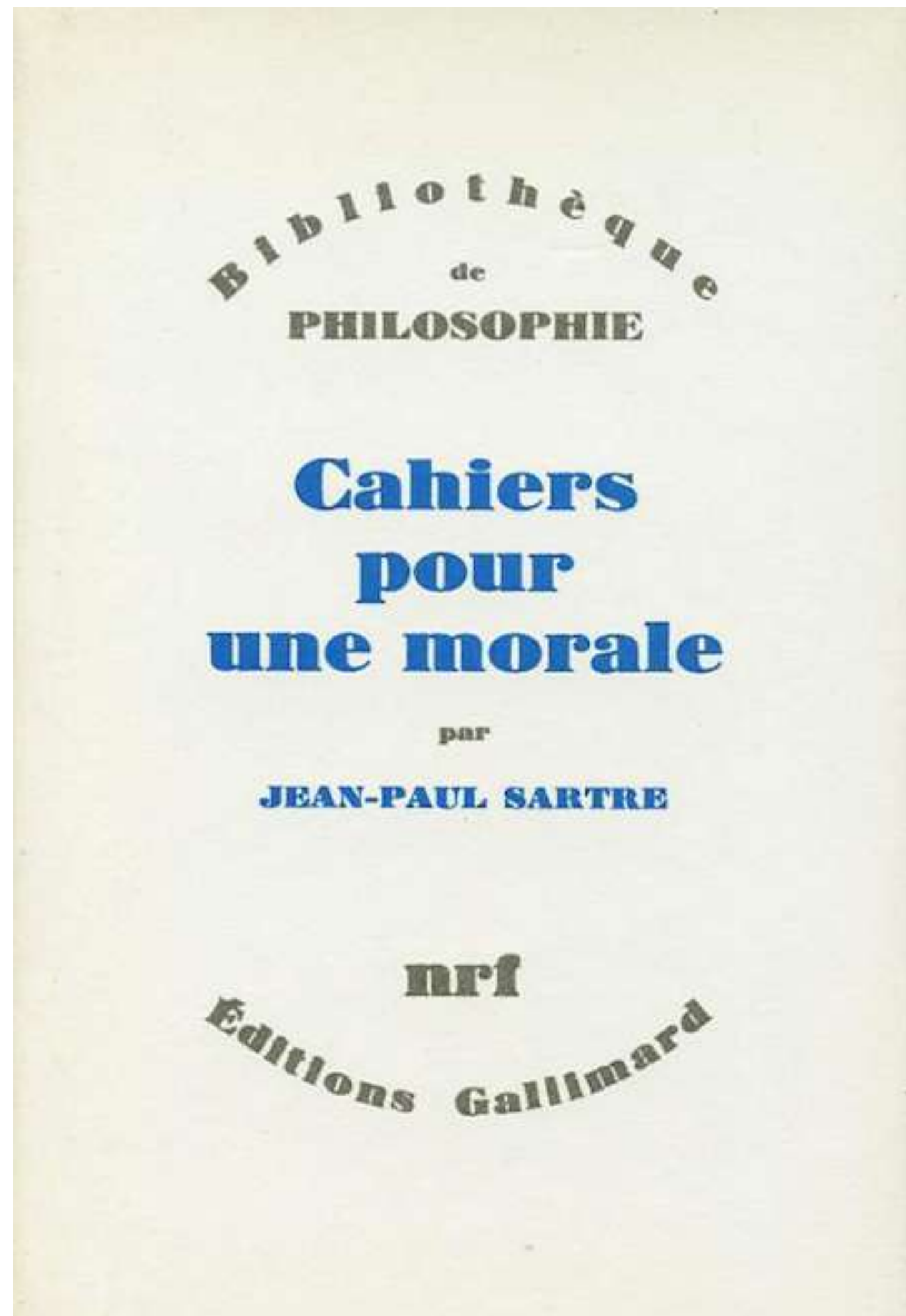


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## ANGST    PRESCRIPTIVE APPROACH

“(…) just as love is willed at the same time that it is felt, this anxiety too must be willed in authenticity as our only defense against the future.”

*Notebooks for an Ethics* (tr. Pellauer), p. 477

→ *Mauvaise foi*



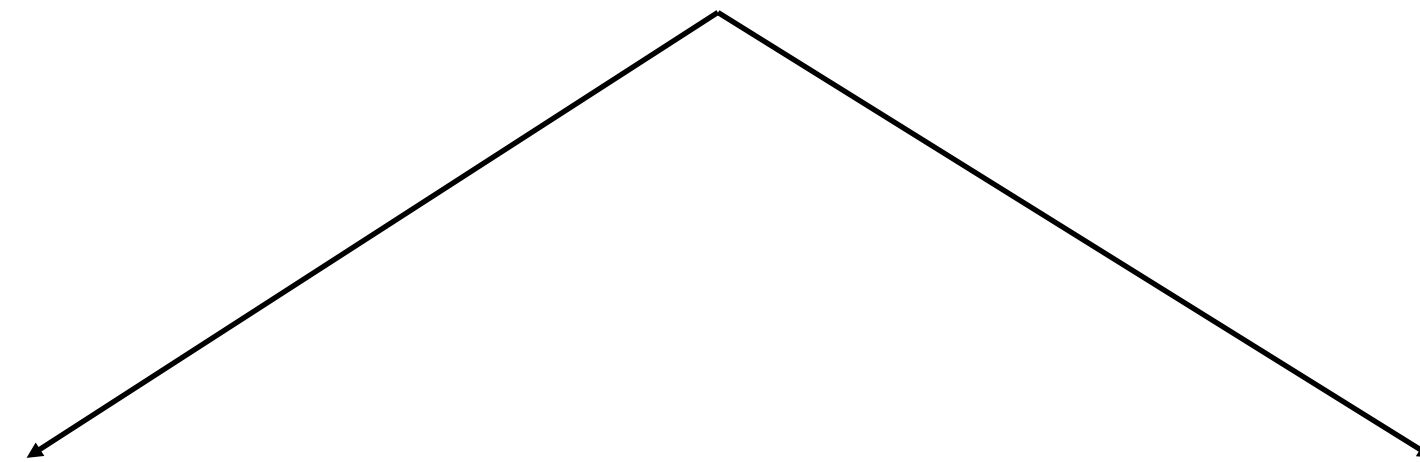
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Authenticity



Facing angst?

Right *response* to angst?

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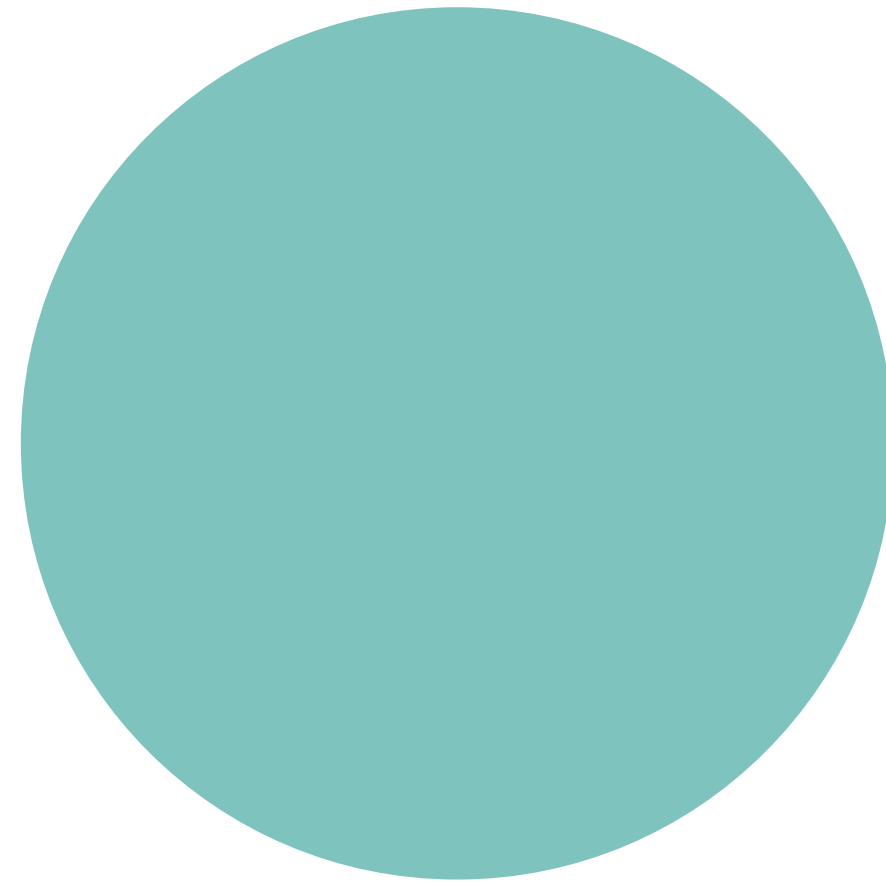


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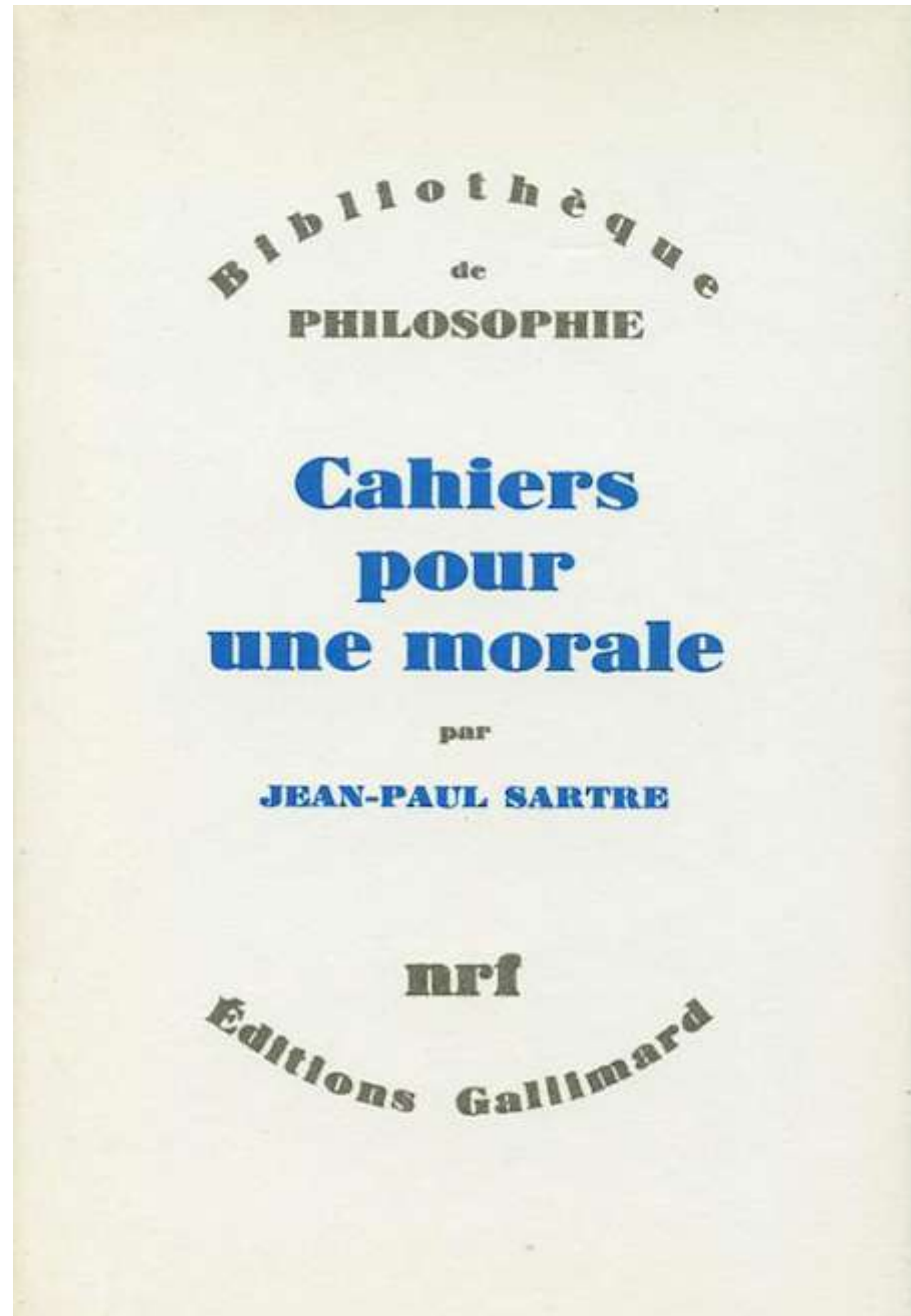
Binary other?

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“Man (...) wants to be Repose in movement or movement in Repose. Inquietude in the midst of calmness.”

*Notebooks for an Ethics* (tr. Pellauer), p. 100

Conversion



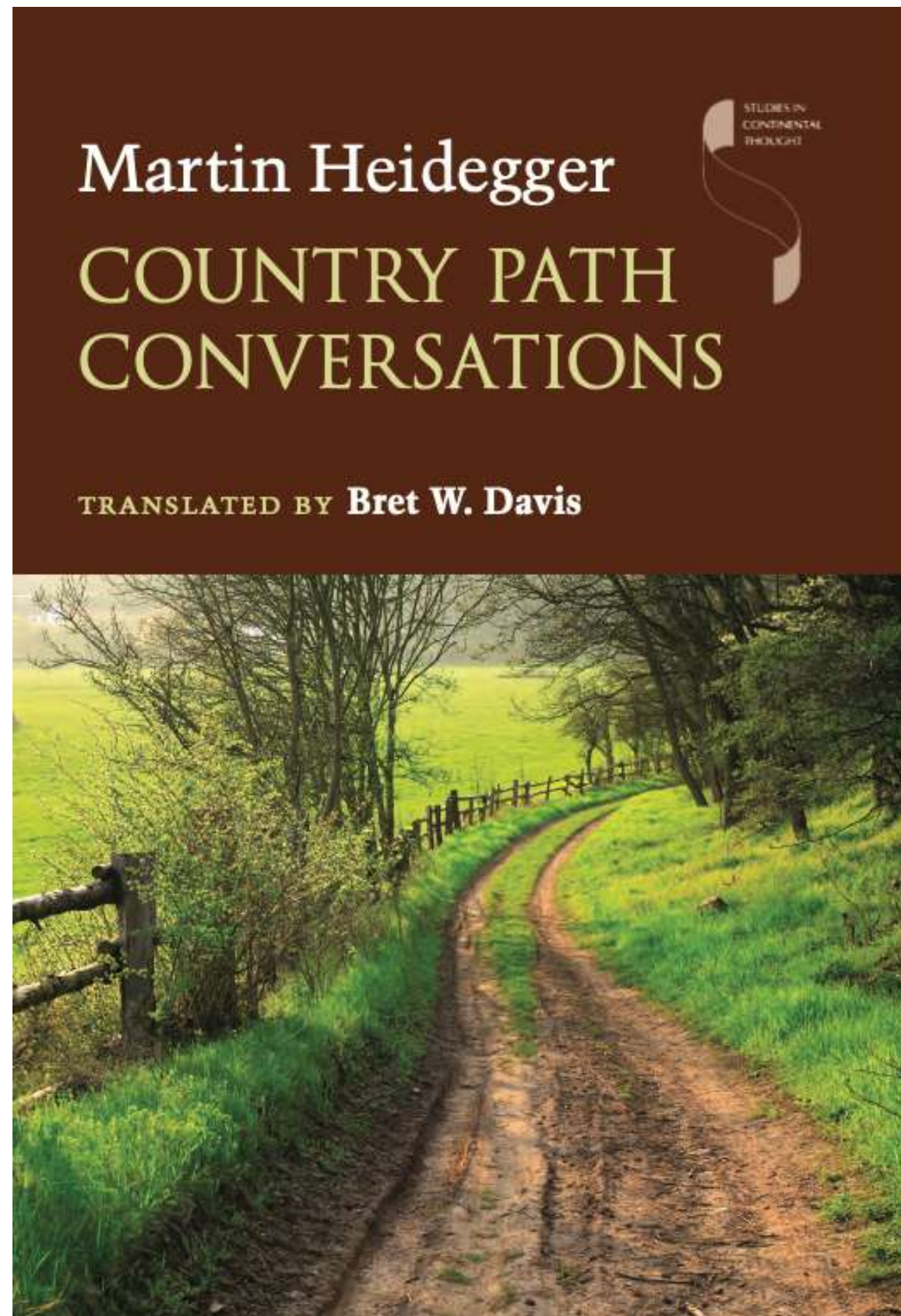


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*gelassenheit* ('releasement')  
*seinlassen* (letting-be)

Object-less waiting

*Country Path Conversations*  
(tr. Davis), p. 75-76



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Existence

Differential

Angst

Action

Serenity

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Différance



Angst

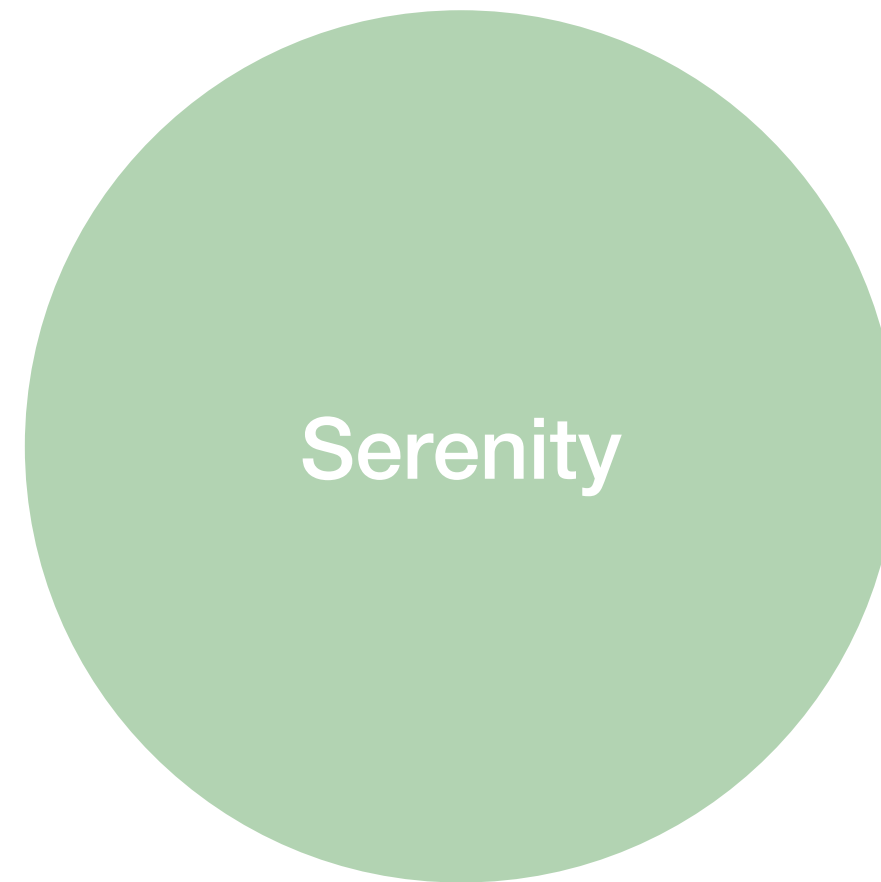
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Différance



Serenity

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Différance



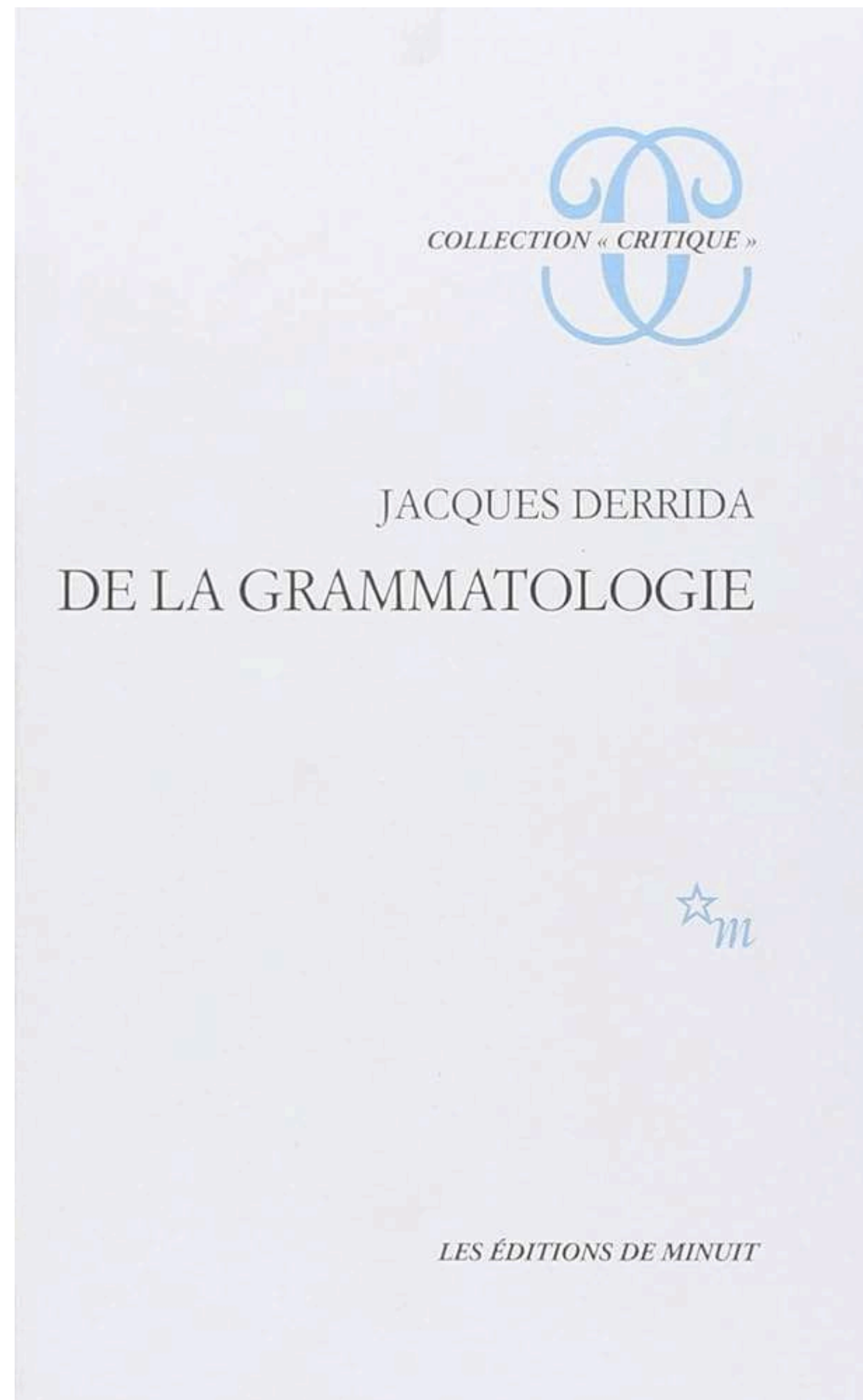
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## Creation of meaning

“We must begin *wherever we are* and the thought of the trace (...) has already taught us that it was impossible to justify a point of departure absolutely. *Wherever we are*: in a text where we already believe ourselves to be.”

*Of Grammatology* (tr. Spivak), p. 162







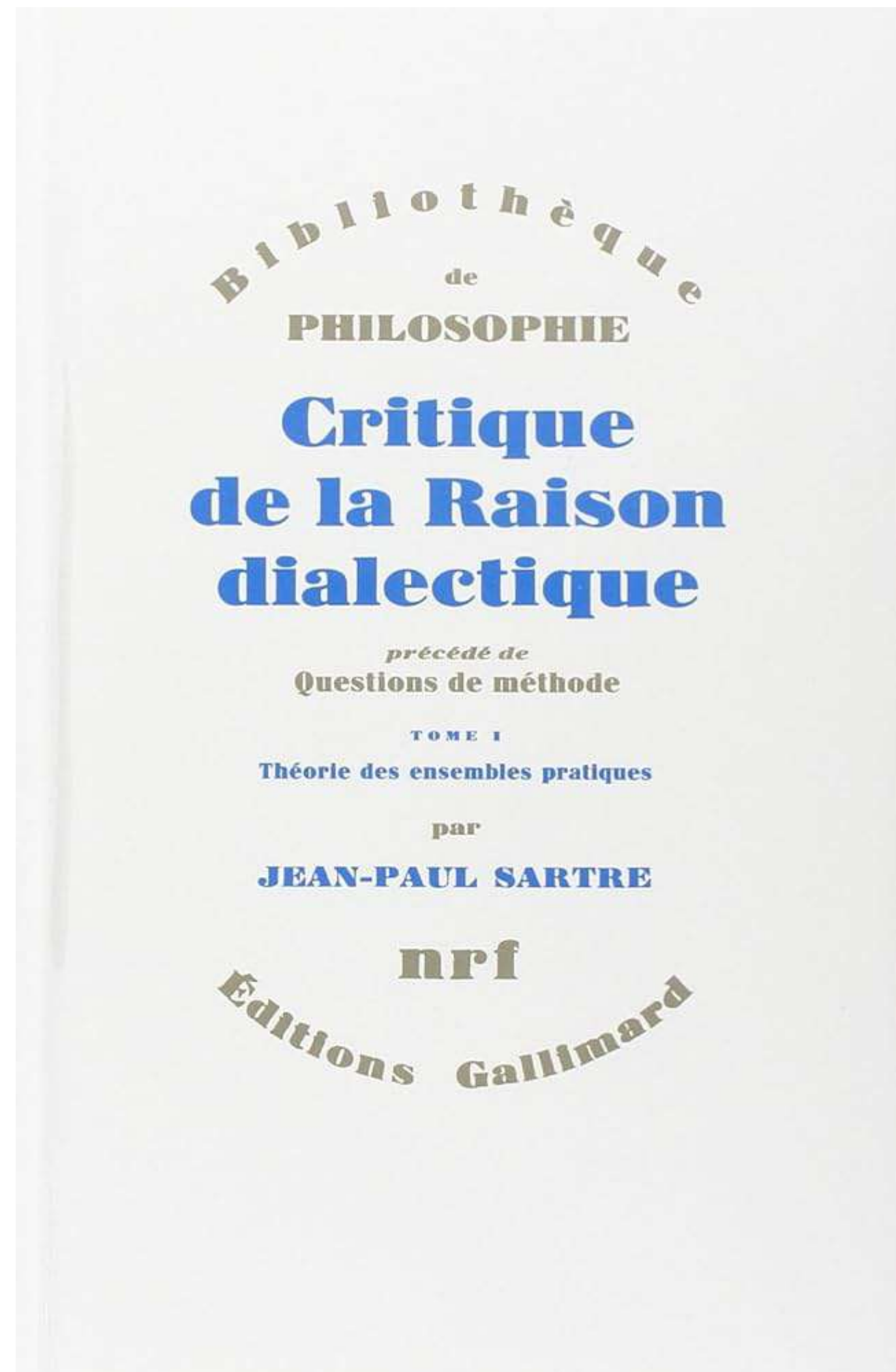
## 2. Forms and means

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“The difference between reality and knowledge “can be seen also as the death of absolute idealism; ideas do not change men. Knowing the cause of a passion is not enough to overcome it; one must live it, one must oppose other passions to it, one must combat it tenaciously, in short one must “work oneself over”.”

*Search for a method* (tr. Barnes), p. 12-13



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Projects

Meanings

Existential grammarology

Ideas Ideals

Texts Traces

Freedom 'in situation'

Existence / Essence

Texts / Ideas

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Texts

Literature

Narrative

Fiction

Finitude

Contingency

Creative constraints

Play

Creativity

→ Means

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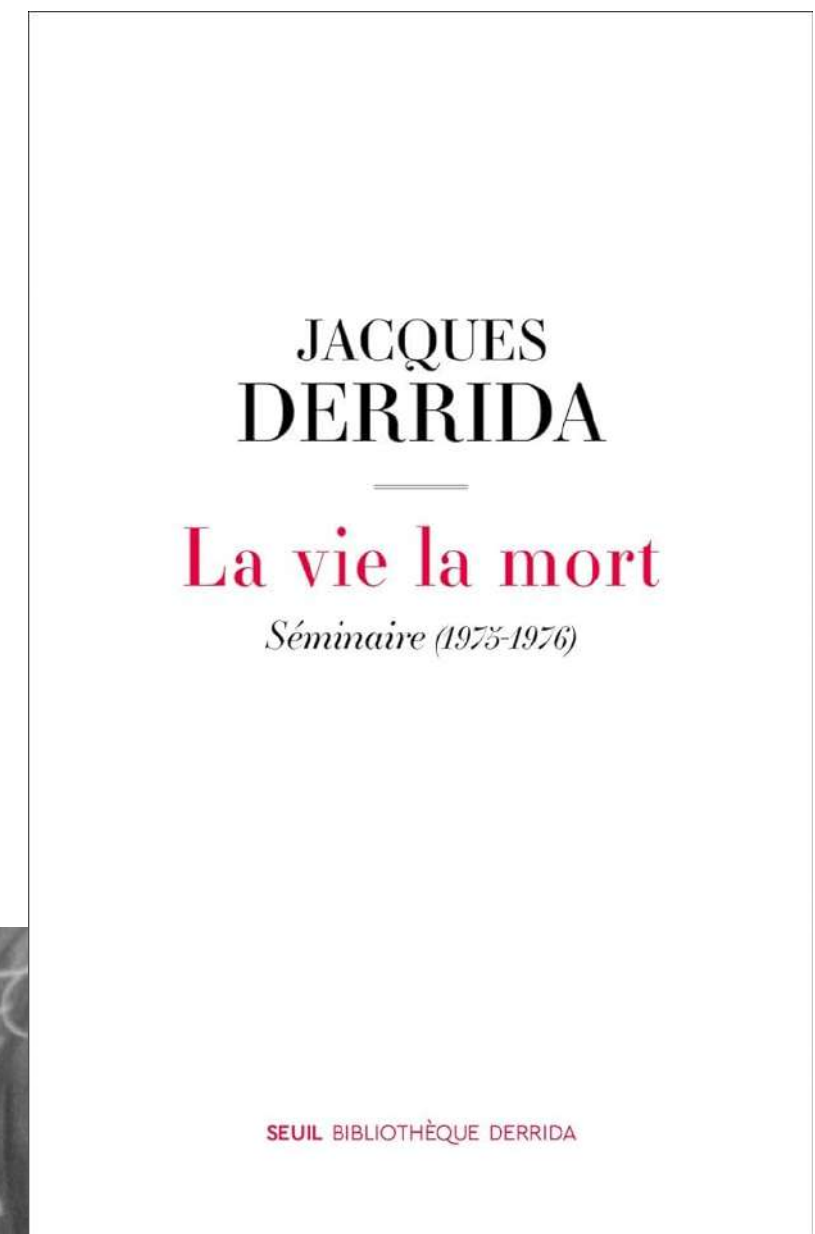
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Bad faith

*Duty* to play with tentative forms

Derrida's creativity

Actions as *pharmaka*



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Means over ends

Technique at the heart of existence

'Writer's block'

'Logocentric angst'



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Traces within experience

Illusion of novelty

