

The Good of Recognition

Phenomenology, Ethics, and Religion in the Thought of Levinas and Ricoeur

By Michael Sohn



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"In this new and exciting book, Michael Sohn offers a fresh perspective on the concept of recognition by interfacing the ethical project of Emmanuel Lévinas with the work of Paul Ricoeur. By interfacing these two figures in particular, Sohn also helps us see the similarities and differences in thinking through Christian and Jewish ethics, an important relation for both thinkers but certainly for readers of Emmanuel Lévinas. His book is a significant contribution to the secondary literature not only on Lévinas and Ricoeur, but also to those working thematically on recognition—including Hegel scholars, scholars working on psychoanalysis, and feminist theorist."

—**Claire Katz**, Professor of Philosophy and Women's and Gender Studies, Texas A&M University

"Michael Sohn makes a significant contribution to the contemporary debates in philosophy of religion and political philosophy while pushing them in important new directions, impressively offering an account of recognition that is both theologically sophisticated and also historically aware."

—**J. Aaron Simmons**, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Furman University

The Good of Recognition analyzes the polysemy of recognition operative in the thought of two contemporary French thinkers, Emmanuel Lévinas (1906–1995) and Paul Ricoeur (1913–2005). Author Michael Sohn shows that recognition—a concept most often associated with Hegel's works—appears prominently throughout the works of Lévinas and Ricoeur, which exist at the intersection of phenomenology, ethics, politics, and religion. Sohn situates recognition in the sociopolitical context of Lévinas and Ricoeur and excavates the philosophical and religious sources that undergird the two thinkers' use of recognition before contextualizing recognition within the broader themes of their thought.

By reflecting on phenomenology, ethics, and religion in *The Good of Recognition*, Sohn not only shows how Lévinas and Ricoeur articulated a response to the pervasive problems of nonrecognition and misrecognition in their day but also suggests how their thought can contribute to a better understanding of our contemporary social and political landscape.

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*Phenomenology, Ethics, and
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Lévinas and Ricoeur*

Michael Sohn

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