



Derrida's Voice and Phenomenon (Edinburgh Philosophical Guides EUP)

By Vernon W. Cisney

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Published in 1967, *Voice and Phenomenon* marked a crucial turning point in Derrida's thinking: the culmination of a 15-year-long engagement with the phenomenological tradition. It also introduced the concepts and themes that would become deconstruction.

Voice and Phenomenon is a short book, but it can be an overwhelming text, particularly for inexperienced readers of Derrida's work. This is the first guide to clearly explain the structure of his argument, step by step.

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Editorial Review

Review

"A masterful guide... Nothing about *VP* [*Voice and Phenomenon*] is 'easy' reading, but with Cisney's help it at least becomes manageable for the first-time reader... As a scholar in the field, I found the book helpful and at times even enlightening. But more importantly, while I can't say that my students found the book (or *VP*) easy, I can confidently say that, after reading Cisney, they understood the general argument of *VP*, something I do not think they would have been able to do without his guidance."--Neal De Roo, Dordt College, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*

"Cisney responds well to the challenge of making a very difficult and controversial thinker accessible to beginners, and of offering them the means to follow Derrida's own advice to the neophyte to 'always, always "venture beyond the beginning"' (Derrida 2000, 108). Perhaps most importantly, by avoiding both the adulation and the scorn with which Derrida's thought has been received in the Anglo-American world, Cisney also opposes the caricature of deconstruction that both extremes seem to legitimate in treating it as a series of interpretive 'techniques' that are voluntarily applied ad hoc to written texts in order to make them mean anything whatsoever. By taking Derridean deconstruction seriously as a philosophical position, Cisney's commentary on *Voice and Phenomenon* presents a refreshing alternative to this image of Derrida's thought."

About the Author

Vernon W. Cisney is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Gettysburg College. He is the author of *Biopower and Biopolitics: A Genealogical Landscape of the Present* (SUNY, forthcoming). He is co-editor of *Biopower: Foucault and Beyond* (Northwestern University Press, forthcoming), *The Way of Nature and the Way of Grace: Philosophical Footholds on the Way of Life* (Northwestern University Press). He is co-translating *Monnaie Vivante* by Pierre Klossowski for Bloomsbury Academic.

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