

THE POSSIBLE AND THE ACTUAL

READINGS IN THE
METAPHYSICS
OF MODALITY

EDITED BY
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The Possible And The Actual Readings In The Metaphysics Of Modality

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The Possible And The Actual Readings In The Metaphysics Of Modality:

The Possible and the Actual Michael J. Loux, 1979 This well chosen collection of fifteen important essays in the fields of philosophical logic and metaphysics addresses questions relating to the nature and status of possible worlds *An Inquiry on Modal Metaphysical Puzzling Possible Worlds* Valery Berthoud, 2017-11-01 The concept of possible worlds is useful because it defines the four modalities possibility necessity contingency and impossibility but a challenge lies in defining it David Lewis polemical hypothesis genuine modal realism as it is called succeeds in it Lewis modal realism stirred controversy because he maintains that a plurality of worlds exists Some philosophers suggest that the Lewisian view is a violation to the law of parsimony also known as Ockham's Razor i.e. not multiply entities beyond necessity While avoiding a circular definition Lewis constructs an inflated ontology Is it worth it and if we do not want to assume too many Lewisian worlds what alternatives remain Actualist modal realism and modal antirealism are the most relevant alternatives because modal abstentionism simply will not progress in this direction This study evaluates the theories of possible worlds *The Possible* Vlad Petre Glăveanu, 2021 Possibility studies is an emerging field of research including topics as diverse as creativity imagination innovation anticipation counterfactual thinking wondering the future social change hope agency and utopia *The Possible A Sociocultural Theory* contributes to this wide field by developing a sociocultural account of the possible grounded in the notions of difference position perspective dialogue action and culture ***The Temporal Mechanics of the Fourth Gospel*** Douglas Estes, 2008-01-01 By redefining narrative temporality in light of modern physics this book advances a unique and innovative approach to the deep seated temporalities within the Gospel of John and challenges the implicit assumptions of textual brokenness that run throughout Johannine scholarship *Beyond the Control of God?* Paul Gould, 2014-03-27 The question of God's relationship to abstract objects touches on a number of perennial concerns related to the nature of God God is typically thought to be an independent and self sufficient being Further God is typically thought to be supremely sovereign such that all reality distinct from God is dependent on God's creative and sustaining activity However the view that there are abstract objects seems to be a repudiation of this traditional understanding of God Abstract objects are typically thought to exist necessarily and it is natural to think that if something exists necessarily it does so because it is its nature to exist Thus abstract objects exist independently of God Philosophers have called this the problem of God and abstract objects In this book six contemporary solutions to the problem are set out and defended against objections It will be valuable for all students or scholars who are interested in the concept and nature of God *Possible Worlds Theory and Contemporary Narratology* Alice Bell, Marie-Laure Ryan, 2019 The notion of possible worlds has played a decisive role in postclassical narratology by awakening interest in the nature of fictionality and in emphasizing the notion of world as a source of aesthetic experience in narrative texts As a theory concerned with the opposition between the actual world that we belong to and possible worlds created by the imagination possible worlds theory has made significant contributions to narratology Possible

Worlds Theory and Contemporary Narratology updates the field of possible worlds theory and postclassical narratology by developing this theoretical framework further and applying it to a range of contemporary literary narratives This volume systematically outlines the theoretical underpinnings of the possible worlds approach provides updated methods for analyzing fictional narrative and profiles those methods via the analysis of a range of different texts including contemporary fiction digital fiction video games graphic novels historical narratives and dramatic texts Through the variety of its contributions including those by three originators of the subject area Lubomir Doležel Thomas Pavel and Marie Laure Ryan Possible Worlds Theory and Contemporary Narratology demonstrates the vitality and versatility of one of the most vibrant strands of contemporary narrative theory

The Bloomsbury Companion to Metaphysics Neil A. Manson, Robert W. Barnard, 2014-12-18 Bridging the gap between the familiar figures of the history of philosophy and the technical approaches favoured by contemporary philosophers The Bloomsbury Companion to Metaphysics introduces the key ideas and debates needed to understand analytic metaphysics Presenting an effective syllabus for an introductory course in contemporary metaphysics this companion brings together a team of leading metaphysicians It begins with a comprehensive introduction to methodological problems and methods before tackling the perennial metaphysical questions surrounding core topics such as Modality Universals and Abstract Objects Naturalism and Physicalism Mind Free Will God

Possible Worlds, Artificial Intelligence, and Narrative Theory Marie-Laure Ryan, 1991 In this important contribution to narrative theory Marie Laure Ryan applies insights from artificial intelligence and the theory of possible worlds to the study of narrative and fiction For Ryan the theory of possible worlds provides a more nuanced way of discussing the commonplace notion of a fictional world while artificial intelligence contributes to narratology and the theory of fiction directly via its researches into the cognitive processes of texts and automatic story generation Although Ryan applies exotic theories to the study of narrative and to fiction her book maintains a solid basis in literary theory and makes the formal models developed by AI researchers accessible to the student of literature By combining the philosophical background of possible world theory with models inspired by AI the book fulfills a pressing need in narratology for new paradigms and an interdisciplinary perspective

Does the World Exist? Anna-Teresa Tymieniecka, 2012-12-06 Does the World exist There would be no reason to resurrect this question of modernity from its historical oblivion were it not for the fact that recent evolution in science and technology impregnating culture makes us wonder about the nature of reality of the world we are living in and of our status as living beings within it Thus great metaphysical subjacent queries are forcefully revived calling for new investigations to proceed in the light of the innumerable novel insights of science This collection presents a wealth of material toward an elaboration of a new metaphysical groundwork of the onto-poiesis phenomenology of life sought to effect such investigations The classic postulates of the metaphysics of reality those of necessity and certainty here find a new formulation Away from sclerotized ontological and cognitive assumptions and congenial with the views of contemporary science the understanding of reality of

our world of life and of ourselves within it is to be sought in the existential onto-poietic ciphering of life Tymieniecka

Wondering about the Impossible: On the Semantics of Counterpossibles Maciej Sendłak, 2024-07-26 This book provides an in depth analysis of the nature and role of hypothetical reasoning about impossibilities The interest in this subject stems from the simple observation that wondering is an inherent aspect of our experience Whether one regrets choosing a taxicab over the subway or contemplates the outcome of an election turning out differently the question What would have happened if is a familiar one While we often focus on possible scenarios we also ponder impossible ones What if whales were fish What if a man could be in two places at once What if one could draw a round square Puzzles concerning such questions sparked a heated discussion over the nature and role of hypothetical reasoning about impossibilities This book goes beyond being an opinionated introduction to this debate After comparing various approaches to this issue it proposes a novel perspective that draws on considerations from epistemology and the philosophy of explanation and dependence Targeting researchers and students interested in the philosophy of modalities this book delivers an in depth analysis of a captivating and often overlooked aspect of human reasoning

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