

the
paradox
of
power
and
weakness

LEVINAS AND AN ALTERNATIVE
PARADIGM FOR PSYCHOLOGY

GEORGE KUNZ

The Paradox Of Power And Weakness Levinas And An Alternative Paradigm For Psychology

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The Paradox Of Power And Weakness Levinas And An Alternative Paradigm For Psychology:

The Paradox of Power and Weakness George Kunz, 1998 The metaethical philosophy of Emmanuel Levinas challenges Western egocentrism by describing the self as egoic yet nevertheless ethically called to transcend its own obsessions compulsions and addictions and to respect and serve others While power is powerful and weakness is weak power can sabotage itself and the weakness of others has power to command our attention and service Levinas makes distinctions that offer psychology the basis for an alternative paradigm open to paradox In *The Paradox of Power and Weakness* George Kunz shows how the analyses of hagiography cynicism and limits on altruistic behavior by radical altruism contribute to this psychology of ethical responsibility for social sciences

The Paradox of Power and Weakness George Kunz, 1998-01-01 Offers an alternative paradigm for psychology one that reflects Levinas's criticism of a self centered notion of identity Reveals the secret of an authentic altruism through a phenomenology of both power and weakness and of the paradoxes of the weakness of power and the power of weakness

The Oxford Handbook of Levinas Michael L. Morgan, 2019-04-10 Emmanuel Levinas 1906 1995 emerged as an influential philosophical voice in the final decades of the twentieth century and his reputation has continued to flourish and increase in our own day His central themes the primacy of the ethical and the core of ethics as our responsibility to and for others speak to readers from a host of disciplines and perspectives However his writings and thought are challenging and difficult *The Oxford Handbook of Levinas* contains essays that aim to clarify and engage Levinas and his writings in a number of ways Some focus on central themes of his work others on the ways in which he read and was influenced by figures from Plato Hobbes Descartes and Kant to Blanchot Husserl Heidegger and Derrida And there are essays on how his thinking has been appropriated in moral and political thought psychology film criticism and more and on the relation between his thinking and religious themes and traditions Finally several essays deal primarily with how readers have criticized him and found him wanting The volume exposes and explores both the depth of Levinas's philosophical work and the range of applications to which it has been put with special attention to clarifying why his interests in the human condition the crisis of civilization the centrality and character of ethics and morality and the very meaning of human experience should be of interest to the widest range of readers

Psychology and the Other David Goodman, Mark Freeman, 2015 The figure of the Other is an important though underutilized vehicle for exploring and reconceptualizing classic psychological and philosophical issues from identity and purpose to human frailty and suffering Moreover it can be used to reorient inquiry toward aspects of the human condition that are often regarded as secondary or peripheral for instance our responsibility to others and to the environment A broad spectrum of disciplines including psychology philosophy theology and religious studies speak about the challenges we face in encountering the Other vis vis our receptivity openness and capacity to entertain the stranger in our midst Through constructive critical exchange *Psychology and the Other* engages such perspectives on the Other from various subdisciplines within psychology and related disciplines The volume uses the

language of the Other as a vehicle for rethinking aspects of psychological processes especially within the therapeutic context. As a group the contributors demonstrate that the language of the Other may be more fitting than the egocentric language frequently employed in psychology. They also embrace the challenge to create new theories and practices that are more ethically attuned to the dynamic realities of psychological functioning. The book is organized into three sections. The first deals with foundational philosophical concerns and provides an introduction to the project of thinking Otherwise. The second section brings these fundamental philosophical concerns to bear on the therapeutic situation especially in the realm of relational psychoanalysis. The final section of the book addresses concrete psychological situations in which the Other figures prominently and where the power of thinking Otherwise is most visibly demonstrated. **Levinas and the Other in**

Psychotherapy and Counselling Del Loewenthal, 2022-11-28. For Emmanuel Levinas the danger of Western thought is that if we start with ourselves we end with ourselves. Psychotherapy and counselling would be for the sole purpose of strengthening self-initiated and self-directed fulfilment resulting in individual and societal forms of totalitarianism. Levinas suggests that ethics should be about putting the Other first but not in some fundamentalist Christian sense of the self choosing to give one's life for others. The origin of authentic ethical behaviour is not from the self but from the Other. Levinas offers us a fundamental shift in our thinking about therapeutic practices. His writings call on us to have an ethical responsibility in the very way we practice therapy. This is with all the complexities of negotiating from nearness and distance, involvement and boundaries and how we view ourselves in attempting to do this. Levinas inspires us towards ontological, epistemological and methodological shifts. The attempt to put the Other first can significantly change our notion of being. It can help us be taken away from the dangers of a therapy based on ego psychology which seems to permeate so much of our therapies, whether classified as humanistic, psychoanalytic, behavioural or existential. All except the Introduction and two of the chapters were originally published in the *European Journal of Psychotherapy and Counselling*. **Psychotherapy for a**

Democratic Mind Israel W. Charny, 2018-01-19. *Psychotherapy for a Democratic Mind* proposes that the optimal goal of psychotherapy lies in cultivating a free mind with integrity that will not seek to do major harm to one's life or to the lives of others. This book looks at a wide range of psychiatric disorders including classic conditions of neurosis, personality disorders and psychoses through a different lens. Rather than simply enumerating symptoms, namely how a person is addressing the opportunity of his/her life and the lives of others and whether a person is doing harm to themselves and/or others. This book proceeds to grapple with several critical life experiences and styles: tragedy, violence and evil, all of which often have posed insurmountable problems in therapy. **Levinas for Psychologists** Leswin Laubscher, 2023-11-03. *Levinas for Psychologists* provides a rigorous yet accessible examination of Emmanuel Levinas's philosophy and its implications for psychology and the human and social sciences. Comprehensive in scope, this book traces Levinas's thought across the arc of his oeuvre from the earliest works to the last interviews and essays. Laubscher provides numerous examples of how Levinas's thought challenges

current clinical and psychotherapeutic work psychological theory social science research and social theory but also offers promising alternatives Such alternative ways to think and practice psychology are richly illuminated by accessible examples from therapy research and the social everyday The volume makes Levinas's dense and demanding philosophical language comprehensible and accessible without losing the radical profound and poetic qualities of the original Issues of justice racism and nature are addressed throughout and these insights and conclusions are placed within a contemporary context This book is essential reading for psychologists philosophers and anyone interested in the legacy of Levinas's work **Levinas, the Frankfurt School and Psychoanalysis** C. Fred Alford, 2002 Insightful and accessible critique of postmodern ethics

Levinas: A Guide For the Perplexed Benjamin Hutchens, 2004-09-01 Continuum's Guides for the Perplexed are clear concise and accessible introductions to thinkers writers and subjects that students and readers can find especially challenging or indeed downright bewildering Concentrating specifically on what it is that makes the subject difficult to fathom these books explain and explore key themes and ideas guiding the reader towards a thorough understanding of demanding material Emmanuel Levinas is one of the most influential ethicists of recent times The importance and relevance of his work has been recognized and celebrated within philosophy religion sociology political theory and other disciplines His writing however undoubtedly presents the reader with a significant challenge Often labyrinthine paradoxical and opaque Levinas work seeks to articulate a complex ideology and some hard to grasp concepts Levinas A Guide for the Perplexed is the ideal text for the student teacher or lay reader who wants to develop a full and effective understanding of this major modern philosopher Focused upon precisely why Levinas is a difficult subject for study the text guides the reader through the core themes and concepts in his writing providing a thorough overview of his work Valuably the book also emphasizes Levinas's importance for contemporary ethical problems and thinking **Furthering Talk** Thomas Strong, David Pare, 2012-12-06 Recently a client coming in for her second appointment told me the story of how she had been volunteering her time for the past several years to free several innocent prisoners from Illinois prisons She told me how tenaciously and persistently she had to work against politicians who did not want these releases to take place I was so struck by her dedication and personal sacrifice of time money and energy At the end of her story I thanked her I said there were many times when I heard some story of injustice on the news and I thought to myself how I should get involved or at least write a letter But somehow other matters would take precedence my anger would dissipate and soon the issue would slip my mind Listening to her I felt grateful that there were people like her to take up the cause and put energy and voice to my concerns I looked at her and thanked her again Reading this manuscript I was reminded of this story Editing a book on postmodern thinking and ways of being with clients is certainly not the same as confronting politicians or taking on power structures in a justice system But nonetheless after reading this manuscript I found myself grateful to Tom Strong and David Pare for their taking the time and committing the energy to the collection This is a book that should have been written It is

timely and moves ideas forward This is a very worthwhile endeavor and the product reflects their dedication to contemporary ideas

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