



Divine Illumination: The History and Future of Augustine's Theory of Knowledge

By Lydia Schumacher

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In *Divine Illumination*, Schumacher offers an original approach to Augustine's theory of divine illumination, the precondition of all human knowledge. Written with great originality and clarity, she traces the idea through medieval thinkers, into early modernity, and reveals its importance in modern theories of knowledge.

- Takes an original approach to reading Augustine's theory of divine illumination and shows how the theory was transformed and reinterpreted in medieval philosophy and theology
- Presents a groundbreaking way of thinking about the writings of Augustine, Anselm, Bonaventure, Aquinas, and John Duns Scotus, and relates this to cutting edge questions in contemporary philosophy of religion, especially epistemology
- Is a significant contribution to the history of philosophy but also to contemporary debates on faith and reason
- Lays the foundation for future efforts to come to terms with the contemporary epistemological situation and its inherent problems

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Editorial Review

Review

“Taking Augustine’s Platonism seriously thus affords a better understanding of Augustine’s theory of knowledge than taking either Aristotelian or Avicennan notions of the intellect as normative.” (*Scottish Journal of Theology*, 1 July 2014)

“Nonetheless, she has written an important and stimulating book.” (*Reviews in Religion and Theology*, 1 March 2013)

“This volume merits attention from patristic scholars, medievalists, systematic theologians, and philosophers alike.” (*Religious Studies Review*, 1 June 2012)

“Schumacher could very well recommend the epistemological itinerary of the *de Trinitate* without the challenge of re-writing western intellectual history. I look forward to her next book, which promises to do just that.” (*Modern Theology*, 1 January 2013)

Review

“An important and ground-breaking study which links growing interest in Augustine and medieval philosophy with cutting edge questions in contemporary philosophy of religion, particularly concerning epistemology and the ‘rationality’ of religion.

—**Janet Soskice**, University of Cambridge

“In this lucidly argued and solidly documented study Schumacher uncovers the roots of problems notoriously besetting modern theories of knowledge in conflicting medieval interpretations of Augustine’s assumptions about knowledge as divine illumination: an intriguing thesis, which she handles with delicacy and flair.”

—**Fergus Kerr**, O.P. University of Edinburgh

“Challenges the traditional history of theories of knowledge. A bold and provocative reading.”

—**Olivier Boulnois**, Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes (University of Paris, Sorbonne)

From the Back Cover

This is an account of the history and current relevance of the theory of divine illumination, held by Augustine as the pre-condition for all knowledge. Schumacher traces the idea from its Platonic origins, through its re-working by St. Augustine, and its use by medieval thinkers such as Duns Scotus, Anselm, Bonaventure and Aquinas. Augustine’s account was widely held to be authoritative until the end of the thirteenth century, when former champions of Augustine’s tradition, the Franciscan order, pronounced illumination theory untenable.

Schumacher recovers the notion of illumination, showing how the medieval use of the theory unwittingly and radically changed Augustine’s original ideas. In an intellectually adventurous retracing of the prehistory of the modern theory of knowledge, Schumacher examines the presuppositions of divine illumination in Augustine, Anselm, Bonaventure and Aquinas. The book goes beyond this, however, in combining an

analysis of these historical texts with cutting edge questions in current philosophical theology on faith and reason, and the relation of metaphysics and epistemology

This book is an original and lucid contribution to the history of philosophy, medieval history, and modern theology and philosophy.

Users Review

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Martin Phair:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important behave, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your problem; you can add your knowledge by the reserve entitled Divine Illumination: The History and Future of Augustine's Theory of Knowledge. Try to the actual book Divine Illumination: The History and Future of Augustine's Theory of Knowledge as your buddy. It means that it can to be your friend when you really feel alone and beside that of course make you smarter than ever before. Yeah, it is very fortuned in your case. The book makes you much more confidence because you can know almost everything by the book. So , we should make new experience and also knowledge with this book.

Erin Weiss:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent the whole day to reading a reserve. The book Divine Illumination: The History and Future of Augustine's Theory of Knowledge it is very good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can more easily to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book possesses high quality.

Martha Holt:

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