



Intentionality and the Myths of the Given: Between Pragmatism and Phenomenology (Routledge Studies in American Philosophy)

By Carl B Sachs

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Intentionality is one of the central problems of modern philosophy. How can a thought, action or belief be about something? Sachs draws on the work of Wilfrid Sellars, C I Lewis and Maurice Merleau-Ponty to build a new theory of intentionality that solves many of the problems faced by traditional conceptions. The hallmark of the theory is a distinction between "discursive intentionality" (the intentionality of propositional thought and talk) and "somatic intentionality" (the intentionality of bodily perception and action). Doing so sheds new light on Sellars's influential arguments concerning the 'Myth of the Given' and shows how we can build a productive discourse between American pragmatism, analytical philosophy and European phenomenology.

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Intentionality and the Myths of the Given: Between Pragmatism and Phenomenology (Routledge Studies in American Philosophy) By Carl B Sachs Bibliography

- Rank: #4966344 in Books
- Brand: Sachs Carl B
- Published on: 2015-07-16
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.21" h x .50" w x 6.14" l, 1.05 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 208 pages

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Review

"Sachs has written a perceptive and well-argued book about a set of very challenging authors. If one wishes to understand the deepest issues that thread current neo-pragmatist thought, one could do no better than to pick up Sachs' book." - Steven Levine, *The Philosophical Quarterly*

About the Author

Carl B Sachs is Visiting Assistant Professor at Marymount University. His research interests include nineteenth century Continental philosophy, pragmatism, philosophy of the mind, Sellars and post-Sellarsian philosophy, and the history of analytic philosophy. He has contributed many encyclopaedia and journal articles throughout his career and is the co-founder of the Wilfrid Sellars Society, of which he is presently vice-president.

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