



Wittgenstein: Opening Investigations

By Michael Luntley

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In this provocatively compelling new book, Michael Luntley offers a revolutionary reading of the opening section of Wittgenstein's *Philosophical Investigations*

- Critically engages with the most recent exegetical literature on Wittgenstein and other state-of-the-art philosophical work
- Encourages the re-incorporation of Wittgenstein studies into the mainstream philosophical conversation
- Has profound consequences for how we go on to read the rest of Wittgenstein's major work
- Makes a significant contribution not only to the literature on Wittgenstein, but also to studies in philosophy of language

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Editorial Review

Review

“Despite apparently underplaying the importance of the Tractatus in the genesis of the later philosophy, though, Luntley’s book is a very valuable challenge to any complacency we may feel about how to interpret the opening paragraphs of Wittgenstein’s great unfinished masterpiece.” (*Philosophical Quarterly*, *Advanced Access*, 18 December 2016)

From the Inside Flap

In this compelling new book, Michael Luntley offers a revolutionary interpretation of the opening section of Wittgenstein’s *Philosophical Investigations*. Luntley’s reading challenges the prevailing view that there is a grand sweep to Wittgenstein’s enterprise and marks a major departure from standard arguments about the nature of language, meaning, ostensive definition, and normativity. *Opening Investigations* introduces an improvisational conception of language use and posits that understanding language is more akin to the open-endedness of aesthetic judgment.

In defense of his argument, Luntley provides close readings of the primary text alongside critical engagement with the most recent literature on Wittgenstein and other contemporary philosophical work. Written in accessible and engaging prose, *Opening Investigations* makes a powerful case for re-integrating Wittgenstein studies into contemporary philosophical debates. This book is sure to provoke lively debate among Wittgenstein scholars and will be of great interest to anyone studying Wittgenstein’s work.

From the Back Cover

“Michael Luntley’s provocative study of *Philosophical Investigations* challenges some prevalent basic assumptions concerning the orientation provided by the work’s opening sections. It will profit anyone with an interest in Wittgenstein.”

Adrian Moore, *University of Oxford*

“An original, radical, and iconoclastic reading of the *Philosophical Investigations*.”

David Stern, *University of Iowa*

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