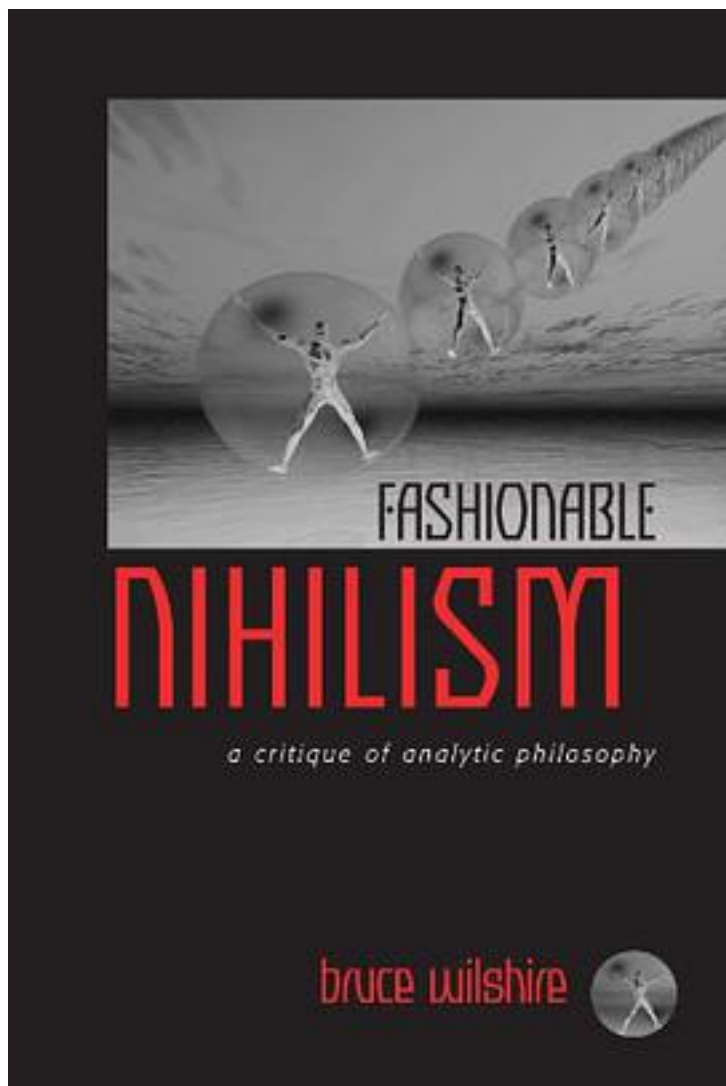


Fashionable Nihilism



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Thoreau wrote that we have professors of philosophy but no philosophers. Can't we have both? Why doesn't philosophy hold a more central place in our lives? Why should it? Eloquently opposing the analytic thrust of philosophy in academia, noted pluralist philosopher Bruce Wilshire answers these questions and more in an effort to make philosophy more meaningful to our everyday lives. Writing in an accessible style he resurrects classic yet neglected forms of inquiring and communicating. In a series of personal essays, Wilshire describes what is wrong with the current state of philosophy in American higher education, namely the cozy but ultimately suffocating confinements of professionalism. He reclaims the role of the philosopher as one who, like Socrates, would goad us out of self-contentedness into a more authentic way of being and knowing.

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Bruce Wilshire is Senior Professor of Philosophy at Rutgers University. He received the Herbert Schneider Lifetime Achievement Award for 2001 from the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy. He is the author of many books, including most recently, *The Primal Roots of American Philosophy: Pragmatism, Phenomenology, and Native American Thought*.

目录: Preface / xi

1 Nihilistic Consequences of Analytic Philosophy / 1

2 “The Ph.D. Octopus”: William James’ s Prophetic Grasp of the Failures of Academic Professionalism / 31

3 The Pluralist Rebellion in the American Philosophical Association / 51

4 Phenomenology in the United States / 65

5 Nature or Nurture?: The Significance of Indigenous Thought / 95

6 Conceptual Problems in Grasping Genocide / 107

7 Henry Bugbee: Philosopher of Intimacy / 119

8 William James on the “Spiritual” / 129

9 Looking for Bek / 135

Acknowledgments / 149

Index / 151

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