Methods and Skills for Philosophy

An Advanced Guide

Jesper Kallestrup



Contents

| | Intro | oduction | ix |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|----|
| 1 | Doing Philosophy | | 1 |
| | 1.2 1.3 1.4 | Introduction 1 Reading Philosophy 1 Talking Philosophy 6 Writing Philosophy 14 The Aim of Philosophy 18 Conclusion 22 | |
| 2 | Reas | oning and Evidence | 27 |
| | 2.2 2.3 2.4 | Introduction 27 The Varieties of Reasoning 27 Assumptions, Suppositions and Assertions 34 Flaws and Fallacies 40 Argumentative Circularity 45 Conclusion 48 | |
| 3 | Conceptual Analysis | | 52 |
| | 3.2 3.3 3.4 | Introduction 52 Concepts 52 Definitions and Counterexamples 56 The Paradox of Analysis 62 Common Sense versus Theoretical Explication 66 Conclusion 73 | |
| 4 | Analyticity, A Priority and Necessity | | 78 |
| | 4.0 4.1 | Introduction 78 The Analytic/Synthetic Distinction 78 | |

| | 4.3 4.4 | Knowledge from the Armchair 82 Modalities I: De Re and De Dicto 87 Modalities II: Deontic, Epistemic and Metaphysical 92 Conclusion 99 | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|-----|--|
| 5 | Exp | anation, Function, Reduction and Causation | 103 | |
| | 5.1 5.2 5.3 | Introduction 103 Explanation and Reasoning 103 From Function to Functionalism 110 Supervenience and Reduction 114 Two Views of Causation 119 Conclusion 125 | | |
| 6 | Philosophical Strategies and Tactics | | | |
| | 6.1 6.2 6.3 | Introduction 130 The Dialectics of Argumentation 130 Argumentative Heuristics 134 Conceptual Engineering 144 The Method of Reflective Equilibrium 148 Conclusion 152 | | |
| 7 | Ratio | Rational Intuitions and Naturalising Philosophy 156 | | |
| | 7.1 7.2 7.3 7.4 | Introduction 156 Thought Experiments 156 Experimental Philosophy 162 Biases and the Dual-System Theory of Cognition 167 Philosophy and Science 173 Conclusion 177 | | |
| | Glos | sary | 182 | |
| | Bibliography | | 206 | |
| | Inde | x | 225 | |