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	