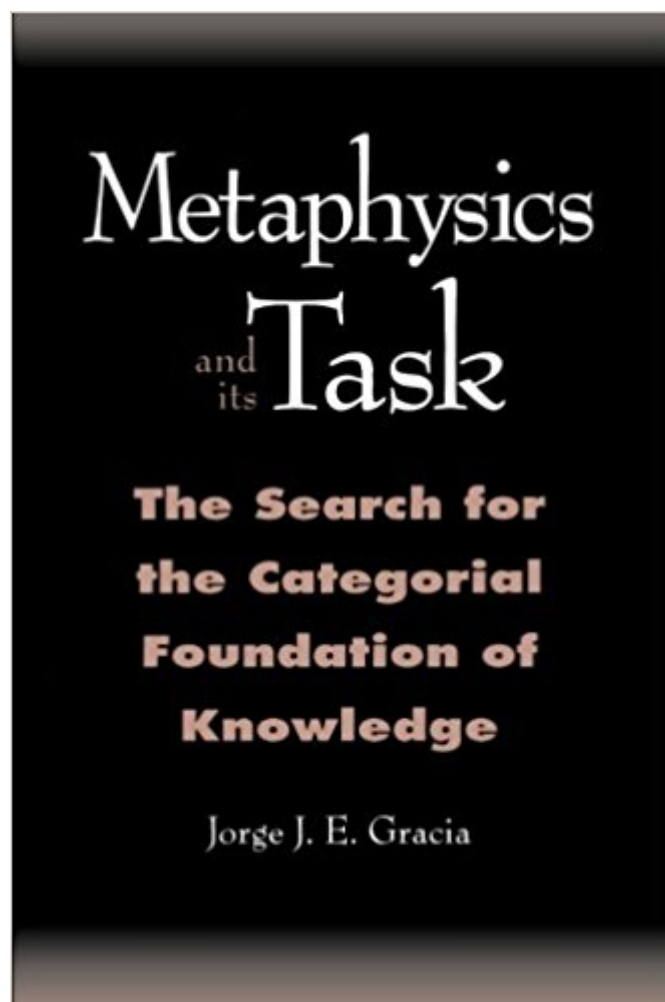




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Metaphysics And Its Task: The Search For The Categorical Foundation Of Knowledge (SUNY Series In Philosophy) (SUNY Series In Philosophy (Paperback))





Synopsis

By offering the first systematic analysis of the nature of the discipline, *Metaphysics and Its Task* answers why metaphysics always recovers from the attacks it has been subjected to throughout its history. This is done by examining its object, method, aim, and the kind of propositions of which it is composed. In addition to presenting a new conception of metaphysics and an explanation of the resilience of the discipline, the book offers a novel understanding of the nature and ontological status of categories, an analysis of the nature of reductionism and its role in philosophy, and a discussion and criticism of the main views concerning the nature of metaphysics developed in the history of philosophy. In this nonsectarian book Gracia uses sources ranging from Plato and Aquinas, to Collingwood and Strawson. Written in nontechnical language, it is accompanied by detailed bibliographical references.

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This is an outstanding book. As a contemporary introduction to the problems of metaphysics there is nothing like it. Its combination of classical perspective and awareness of the contemporary situation is unique. I myself would welcome having it as a teaching tool. Nicholas Rescher, author of *Process Metaphysics* As an elenctic defense of metaphysics, *Metaphysics and Its Task* is superb. Review of *Metaphysics* Gracia not only defends metaphysics, which has come under much criticism in the twentieth century, but shows it to be the fundamental philosophical enterprise at the base of all

human understanding. I learned a good bit from the book and want to study it more closely. Eugene Long, University of South Carolina""This is an outstanding book. As a contemporary introduction to the problems of metaphysics there is nothing like it. Its combination of classical perspective and awareness of the contemporary situation is unique. I myself would welcome having it as a teaching tool." -- Nicholas Rescher, author of Process Metaphysics "As an elenctic defense of metaphysics, Metaphysics and Its Task is superb." -- Review of Metaphysics "Gracia not only defends metaphysics, which has come under much criticism in the twentieth century, but shows it to be the fundamental philosophical enterprise at the base of all human understanding. I learned a good bit from the book and want to study it more closely." -- Eugene Long, University of South Carolina

Jorge J. E. Gracia is Samuel P. Capen Chair and SUNY Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, State University of New York at Buffalo. He has published extensively, and is the author of, among others, *Texts: Ontological Status, Identity, Author, Audience*; *A Theory of Textuality: The Logic and Epistemology*; *Philosophy and Its History: Issues in Philosophical Historiography*; and *Individuality: An Essay on the Foundations of Metaphysics*, all published by SUNY Press. He has edited many books for SUNY Press, including *Individuation in Scholasticism: The Later Middle Ages and the Counter-Reformation, 1150-1650*; *Individuation and Identity in Early Modern Philosophy: Descartes to Kant* (with Kenneth F. Barber); and *Philosophy and Literature in Latin America: A Critical Assessment of the Current Situation* (with Mireye Camurati).

I am not a great philosopher, but as a layman I've been thinking about such subjects for close to 50 years. An excellent book that breakdowns Metaphysics into various sections/ categories/ outline that helps one think critically through the jumble. This is a side note - I have tons of books on Academic Philosophy and its extremely refreshing to see a Philosopher of Spanish descent write something that is relatively current. Unfortunately, never noticed or heard about this book until now - glad I did.

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