gilles deleuze's philosophy of time

a critical introduction and guide

James Williams

'Williams offers us a remarkable book – not only has he produced a Critical Introduction to the famous (and famously difficult) three syntheses of time, he has also invested in its implications to show us its centrality as a "process philosophy of time". This book renews the meaning of Deleuze's early philosophy and invites the reader to rethink its relation to the promise of a new future in his later work with Guattari.'

Eric Alliez, Professor of Contemporary French Philosophy, Kingston University

Throughout his career, Deleuze developed a series of original philosophies of time and applied them successfully to many different fields. Now James Williams presents Deleuze's philosophy of time as the central concept that connects his philosophy as a whole.

Key Features

- Detailed analysis of Deleuze's philosophy of time in Difference and Repetition and Logic of Sense
- A novel reading of Deleuze's work on Nietzsche's eternal return and on Hume, Bergson and Kant
- An extensive set of notes situating Deleuze's philosophy of time in relation to current interpretations of Deleuze's philosophy and to his later work with Guattari

James Williams is Professor of European Philosophy at the University of Dundee. He has published widely on Deleuze, including Gilles Deleuze's Logic of Sense: A Critical Introduction and Guide (Edinburgh University Press, 2008), The Transversal Thought of Gilles Deleuze: Encounters and Influences (2005) and Gilles Deleuze's Difference and Repetition: A Critical Introduction and Guide (Edinburgh University Press, 2003).

Jacket design: riverdesign.co.uk

Jacket image: Cascade © Matthew Draper

Edinburgh University Press 22 George Square Edinburgh EH8 9LF www.euppublishing.com ISBN 978 0 7486 3854 3



Acknowledgements		vii
Ab	breviations	ix
1	Introduction	1
1	Why Gilles Deleuze's philosophy of time?	1
	The do's and don'ts of time travel	7
	The critical power of Deleuze's philosophy of time	16
9		21
4	The first synthesis of time	
	The living present	21
	Synthesis and method in the first synthesis of time	30
	Of pebbles and their habits	38
	The passing present	45
3	The second synthesis of time	51
	A time within which time passes	51
	The deduction of the pure past	59
	Destiny and freedom	68
	How to save all the past for us?	75
4	The third synthesis of time	79
	From Descartes to Kant	79
	Back to Plato	84
	The pure and empty form of time	86
	History, repetition and the symbolic image	95
	Past and present as dimensions of the future	102
	Transcendental dogmatism?	106
5	Time and eternal return	113
	Only difference returns and never the same	113
	Eternal return and death	118

Gilles Deleuze's Philosophy of Time

	Series and eternal return	124
	Disparity and difference in eternal return	130
6		134
	Of wounds and time	134
	How much, how and where?	138
	Time and the surface between depths and heights	145
	From principles to acts	154
7	Conclusion: the place of film in Deleuze's philosophy	
	of time	159
F	Endnotes	165
	Bibliography	194

Index 203