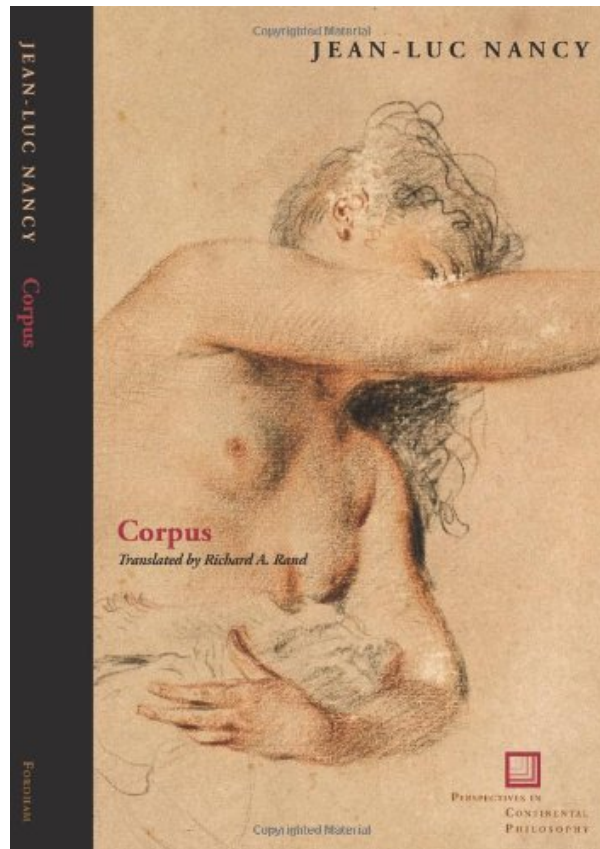
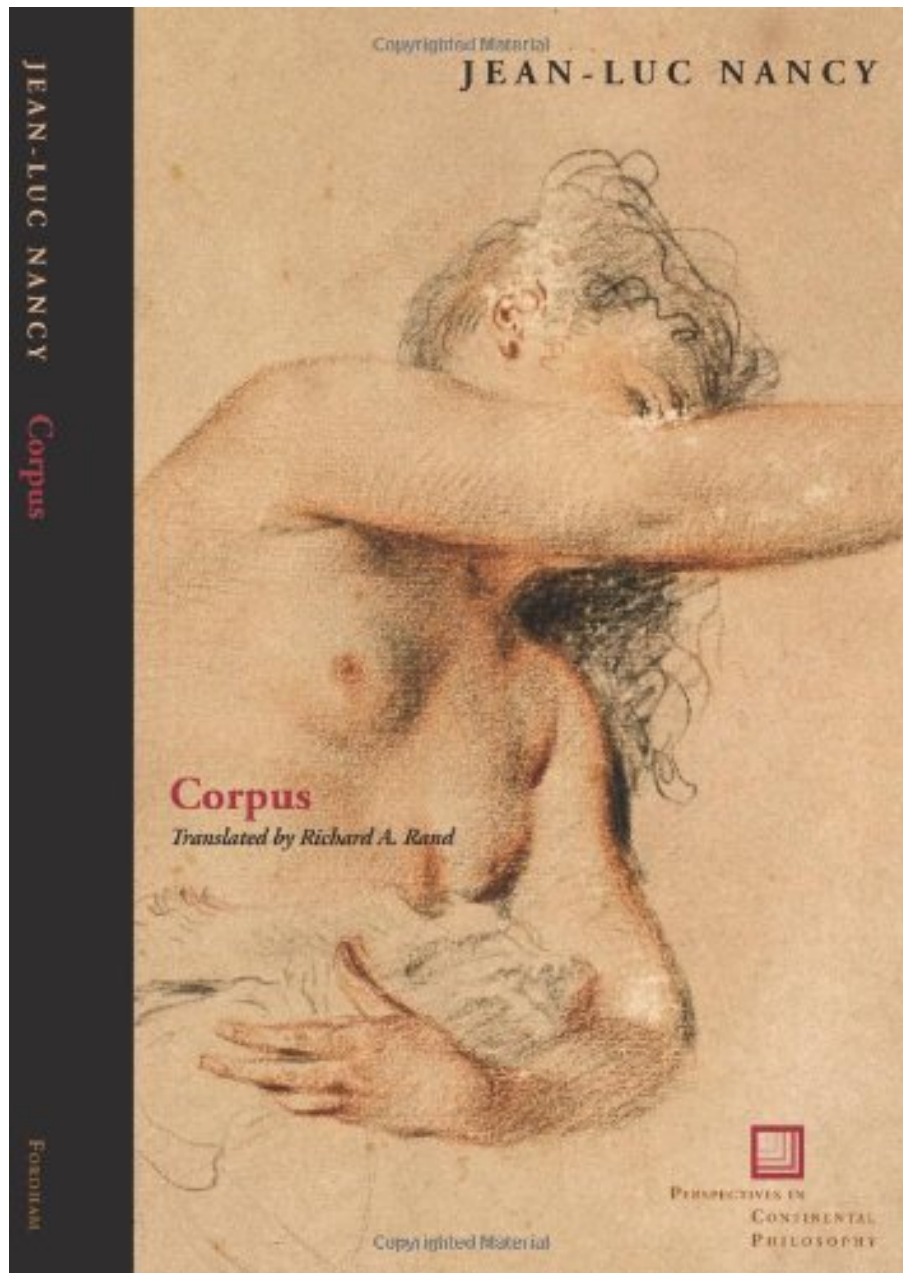


# CORPUS (PERSPECTIVES IN CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY) BY JEAN-LUC NANCY



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## Review

Translation of 'Corpus,' an essay on the body written by the French philosopher between 1990 and 1992, as well as other writings that revisit the work.

Jean-Luc Nancy gives us bodies in their gravitational weight, their mutual touch, their joy and their devastation, their self-evident presence and their constant elusiveness. From the dazzlingly layered complications of the opening *Corpus* to the meditatively personal accessibility of the closing *The Intruder*, these essays display the necessary connections and mutual exclusions of flesh and word. Nancy's work on bodies, already canonical, engages traditions we thought we knew-Platonism, Cartesianism, Christianity-and shows us how much newness is possible still.-Karmen MacKendrick

## About the Author

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# **CORPUS (PERSPECTIVES IN CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY)**

## **BY JEAN-LUC NANCY PDF**

How have we thought the body? How can we think it anew? The body of mortal creatures, the body politic, the body of letters and of laws, the mystical body of Christ—all these (and others) are incorporated in the word *Corpus*, the title and topic of Jean-Luc Nancy's masterwork. *Corpus* is a work of literary force at once phenomenological, sociological, theological, and philosophical in its multiple orientations and approaches. In thirty-six brief sections, Nancy offers us at once an encyclopedia and a polemical program—reviewing classical takes on the corpus from Plato, Aristotle, and Saint Paul to Descartes, Hegel, Husserl, and Freud, while demonstrating that the mutations (technological, biological, and political) of our own culture have given rise to the need for a new understanding of the body. He not only tells the story of this cultural change but also explores the promise and responsibilities that such a new understanding entails. The long-awaited English translation is a bold, bravura rendering. To the title essay are added five closely related recent pieces—including a commentary by Antonia Birnbaum—dedicated in large part to the legacy of the mind-body problem formulated by Descartes and the challenge it poses to rethinking the ancient problems of the corpus. The last and most poignant of these essays is *The Intruder*, Nancy's philosophical meditation on his heart transplant. The book also serves as the opening move in Nancy's larger project called *The deconstruction of Christianity*.

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#### Most helpful customer reviews

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

What to expect of 'Corpus'

By Max Deutscher

I hovered on three or four stars. It's .. how can I say .. tending to the lyrical rather than the analytical - and that's good in many ways - Writing freely, from a very rich vocabulary and range of implicit references is Nancy's way of avoiding tramping, one more time, down the same old 'mind/body' track of discourse.

Maybe the thing to say is this - it is the sort of writing that gives back its rewards in the same measure as you bring your own good philosophy to it.

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

FROM "BAD-POETRY" TO "PROFOUND-ANTI-PHILOSOPHY"

By barryb

FROM "BAD-POETRY" TO "PROFOUND-ANTI-PHILOSOPHY":

this is my 7th reading of Nancy; I am a huge fan of his thought. But I want to give a helpful and honest account of this work, without my bias. If you have not already studied Nancy, you should not make this book your first reading. STOP; and purchase this book instead: "the sense of the world" . If you have studied Nancy to some degree already, then: PROCEED.

all post-modern thinkers emphasize the fact that "significance -of-spirit" cannot be articulated in language. But they have to write books and essays presenting this fact; so they are left on the edge of the void-point, looking for new words. Since none exist; they engage in poetic-writing to express their ideas. "Some" of this is allowed. Let's be fair about that. But the over-use and obscure-use of poetic language is not allowed in an academic text. The beginning of this book is a "dark-comedy", as the other reviewer of this book emphasizes. I agree with that review. It helped me to stay objective. Bravo, for writing an honest critique. But I'll go a step further and call this dark-comedy - "bad-poetry". The beginning of this manuscript completely evacuates the reader from the void-point, where Nancy prefers that the reader remain. It is very frustrating and can be endured only if you already have internalized his system; so you cannot be lost.

But, staying un-lost is important; because , later he returns to a "teachable void-point" and actually clarifies previous concepts he had left unclear during his dominance during the years of 1993 to 1997.

key additions to this manuscript that the Nancy fan will want to appropriate are: (1) a better articulation of the metaphor of "wound"; (2) an explanation of extended space as AREOLA; which is fascinating and provides a beautiful thought-picture; (3) a progression of selfhood which is more structured, moving through: PSYCHE to SOUL to EGO to SUBJECT to WORLD.

He also addresses the fulfillment of system as "black-hole" on the directional side and "transfigured-body" on the sensate side.

I remain a Jean-Luc Nancy fan and strongly endorse this book for those already familiar with his work. 5 stars...

p.s.: GOOD-POETRY: NANCY'S BOOK DOES "END" WITH EXCELLENT POETRY WITH HIS CONCLUDING ESSAY: "THE INTRUDER"; HIS POETRY OF "HEART-TRANSPLANT".

MYTHOLOGY: Nancy's philosophy is always divided into two parts; a "psychology" and a "mythology". In "the sense of the world", he gave us the mythology of the "void-point". In this book, he gives us the "mythology-of-the- mystical - body". It is delivered briefly in pages 150-161. Just 11 pages; but jammed with content. Do not ignore this material. It is an essential part of "corpus".

16 of 21 people found the following review helpful.

mens sana

By Alvaro Lewis

The primary essay in this work, *Corpus*, reminds me a little of that comedian who would smash melons, scattering seeds and fruit flesh everywhere. Under the hammer here, to be both pounded and enlarged, is *Corpus*, the body. The writing is ebullient and intelligent, the rhetoric takes flight. This expression plants all kinds of seeds and it is a relief to read about the importance, potential, and relations of bodies, so often shadowed by mounting emphasis on intellect and reason. The body has reasons of its own worthy of sustained attention. *Corpus* is far more an inspired and improvisational riff on a theme rather than an accumulation of fact or anecdote for the sake of an argument. The French text is included beside the English translation for the entire text of *Corpus*. This work will be a pleasure to reread and rethink. The eccentricity of its style may one day cause me to wonder what I was doing reading this, but its beauty is undeniable.

The other essays in this book, "On the Soul", "On the Extension of the Soul" address Aristotle, Descartes, and Spinoza and mind-body problems. The final essay, "The Intruder" is a fascinating exploration of Nancy's relation to his own body and soul and self after his heart transplant. This last piece jolts readers back to an emphasis on and appreciation of our own bodies.

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