

INSURRECTIONS: CRITICAL STUDIES IN RELIGION,
POLITICS, AND CULTURE

Slavoj Žižek, Clayton Crockett, Creston Davis, Jeffrey W. Robbins, Editors

The intersection of religion, politics, and culture is one of the most discussed areas in theory today. It also has the deepest and most wide-ranging impact on the world. Insurrections: Critical Studies in Religion, Politics, and Culture will bring the tools of philosophy and critical theory to the political implications of the religious turn. The series will address a range of religious traditions and political viewpoints in the United States, Europe, and other parts of the world. Without advocating any specific religious or theological stance, the series aims nonetheless to be faithful to the radical emancipatory potential of religion.

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REIMAGINING
THE SACRED

Richard Kearney Debates God

with James Wood, Catherine Keller, Charles Taylor,
Julia Kristeva, Gianni Vattimo, Simon Critchley,
Jean-Luc Marion, John Caputo, David Tracey,
Jens Zimmermann, and Merold Westphal

Edited by

Richard Kearney and Jens Zimmermann



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PREFACE

The dialogues in this volume took place over a span of nearly four years and feature some of the leading thinkers of religion in our time. The idea for the book began in 2011, at a meeting of the American Academy of Religion in San Francisco, following a discussion of my recently published *Anatheism: Returning to God After God*. After a particularly animated session, my colleague Jens Zimmermann suggested extending the exchange into a volume on the theme of God after God. The aim of the volume would be to show how the anatheist question attracts the keen attention of many of the best minds of our generation, from philosophers such as Charles Taylor, Jean-Luc Marion, Gianni Vattimo, and Jack Caputo to theologians such as David Tracy and Catherine Keller and cultural theorists such as Julia Kristeva, Simon Critchley, and James Wood.

As it happened, I was offered several occasions to engage with these thinkers at different conferences, round tables, and colloquies—hence the variation of tone and voice from one exchange to the next. Some bear the mark of official academic seminars (panels held at Harvard with Caputo and at Boston College with Tracy, Westphal, Wood, and Zimmermann). Others resemble more informal and casual encounters—Vattimo in a Vilnius café, Keller in a Manhattan tearoom, Critchley in a New School office, Marion in a Paris bureau. And others again—Taylor and Kristeva—have the impromptu character of conversations over a kitchen table, followed by epistolary clarifications. I mention these different