

saul kripke naming and necessity

Saul Kripke Naming and Necessity: Unraveling the Philosophy of Language and Modal Logic

saul kripke naming and necessity is a cornerstone topic in contemporary philosophy of language and metaphysics that forever changed how we think about meaning, reference, and modality. Saul Kripke, a towering figure in analytic philosophy, introduced revolutionary ideas in his seminal work **Naming and Necessity**, which challenged long-standing descriptivist theories and reshaped debates on how names function in language and how necessity relates to identity statements. If you've ever wondered how language connects to the world or how something can be necessarily true yet only known a posteriori, Kripke's insights offer a compelling framework.

Understanding Saul Kripke's Impact on Philosophy

Before Kripke's intervention, the dominant view in philosophy of language was descriptivism, largely influenced by thinkers like Frege and Russell. According to descriptivism, the meaning of a proper name is equivalent to a cluster of descriptions associated with that name. For example, the name "Aristotle" might mean "the student of Plato who tutored Alexander the Great." This theory suggested that the reference of a name depended on satisfying these descriptions.

Kripke, however, dismantled this view by arguing that names are rigid designators—they refer to the same object in every possible world where that object exists, regardless of the descriptions true of it in that world. This insight was revolutionary because it separated the concept of meaning from mere description and tied reference more directly to an object's identity.

What Are Rigid Designators?

Rigid designators are terms that pick out the same entity in all possible worlds where that entity exists. Unlike definite descriptions, which might refer to different entities in different contexts, proper names as rigid designators maintain a fixed reference. For example, "Saul Kripke" refers to the same individual in any conceivable scenario where he exists, even if, hypothetically, he hadn't become a philosopher.

This concept has profound implications for modal logic and metaphysics because it allows philosophers to talk meaningfully about necessity and possibility in relation to identity. It also explains why some statements that seem contingent are actually necessarily true.

Exploring the Central Themes of Naming and Necessity

Kripke's **Naming and Necessity** can be seen as a trilogy of lectures where he introduces three interrelated ideas that have reshaped philosophical thinking: the causal theory of reference, the distinction between epistemic and metaphysical necessity, and the nature of identity statements.

The Causal Theory of Reference

Kripke proposed that the reference of a proper name is fixed by an initial “baptism” — a direct naming event where the name is attached to an object. After this, the name is passed along through a chain of communication, preserving the link to the original referent. This causal-historical theory replaces the earlier descriptive accounts and explains how names maintain reference even when our knowledge about the object changes or is incomplete.

For example, the name “Aristotle” continues to refer to the same historical figure even if someone mistakenly thinks he was a mathematician. The reference is not dependent on the descriptions associated with the name but on the causal chain of naming.

Epistemic vs. Metaphysical Necessity

One of the most fascinating aspects of Kripke’s work is his distinction between epistemic and metaphysical necessity. Epistemic necessity relates to what we can know, whereas metaphysical necessity concerns what is true in all possible worlds.

Kripke argued that some statements are necessarily true but only knowable a posteriori (through experience), such as “Water is H₂O.” Before the scientific discovery of water’s chemical composition, this truth was unknown, yet it is necessarily true since water’s nature does not vary across possible worlds. This idea challenged the traditional identification of necessity with a priori knowledge and contingency with a posteriori knowledge.

Identity Statements and Their Necessity

Kripke also analyzed identity statements, differentiating between standard identity truths and those involving proper names or natural kind terms. He pointed out that statements like “Hesperus is Phosphorus” (where both names refer to Venus) are necessarily true if true at all, though discovered empirically. This insight illustrates how some truths about identity are not just contingently true but hold in every possible world in which the entities exist.

This reshaped the understanding of how language relates to metaphysical reality and how necessity operates in the realm of identity.

Why Saul Kripke Naming and Necessity Matters Today

Kripke’s work has had a lasting influence beyond just philosophy of language. His ideas ripple through metaphysics, epistemology, logic, and even linguistics. Understanding his approach is essential for anyone exploring how language functions, how we refer to the world around us, and how we can discuss what is possible or necessary.

Implications for Metaphysics and Ontology

By clarifying how names rigidly designate objects, Kripke's theory challenges reductionist views that tie identity to mere properties or descriptions. This has implications for debates about the nature of objects, their essential properties, and the structure of reality. It invites us to consider that some aspects of identity are fixed and not subject to change based on descriptions or beliefs.

Influence on Contemporary Philosophy of Language

Kripke's causal theory of reference paved the way for further developments in semantics and the study of how meaning is grounded. His rejection of descriptivism encouraged philosophers to rethink how language relates to the world, leading to more nuanced theories of reference, meaning, and communication.

Impact on Modal Logic and Epistemology

By distinguishing between metaphysical and epistemic necessity, Kripke opened up new avenues in modal logic and epistemology. His insights help clarify how we can talk about possibilities and necessities in a rigorous way, influencing fields ranging from logic to the philosophy of science.

Key Takeaways and Insights on Naming and Necessity

Navigating Kripke's **Naming and Necessity** can be challenging, but here are some core points to keep in mind that illuminate his groundbreaking philosophy:

- **Names as rigid designators:** Names are not shorthand for descriptions but directly linked to their referents across all possible worlds.
- **Causal-historical theory:** The reference of names is fixed through an initial naming event and preserved through communicative chains.
- **Distinction in necessity:** There's a crucial difference between what is necessarily true (metaphysical necessity) and what is knowable a priori (epistemic necessity).
- **Necessary a posteriori truths:** Some truths, like "Water is H₂O," are necessarily true but discovered through empirical investigation.
- **Identity and necessity:** Identity statements involving proper names or natural kinds are necessarily true if true at all, regardless of how we discover them.

These points underscore why Saul Kripke's naming and necessity remains a vital subject for

understanding language, logic, and the philosophy of reality.

Delving Deeper: How to Approach Kripke's Ideas

If you're interested in exploring the nuances of Kripke's philosophy, here are some tips to deepen your understanding:

1. **Read primary sources:** Start with Kripke's original lectures in **Naming and Necessity** to grasp his arguments firsthand.
2. **Study related theories:** Familiarize yourself with descriptivist theories and Frege-Russell semantics to appreciate what Kripke was responding to.
3. **Explore modal logic basics:** Understanding possible worlds semantics and modal operators helps clarify Kripke's use of necessity and possibility.
4. **Engage with critiques and discussions:** Philosophers have debated Kripke's views extensively; reading these can highlight strengths and challenges.
5. **Apply concepts to real-world examples:** Try analyzing everyday names or scientific terms through the lens of rigid designation and causal reference chains.

By integrating these approaches, you'll develop a richer and more nuanced appreciation of how naming and necessity interact in philosophical discourse.

Saul Kripke's naming and necessity continue to inspire and challenge thinkers decades after their introduction. Whether you're a student of philosophy, linguistics, or logic, grappling with Kripke's ideas offers profound insights into how we connect language with the world and how necessity shapes our understanding of truth.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Saul Kripke's main thesis in 'Naming and Necessity'?

Saul Kripke's main thesis in 'Naming and Necessity' is that proper names are rigid designators, meaning they refer to the same object in every possible world where that object exists, and that there are necessary truths that are known a posteriori.

How does Kripke challenge the descriptivist theory of names

in 'Naming and Necessity'?

Kripke challenges the descriptivist theory by arguing that proper names do not have meaning equivalent to a cluster of descriptions. Instead, names directly refer to objects without the mediation of descriptions, and this reference is rigid across possible worlds.

What is a 'rigid designator' according to Kripke?

A rigid designator is a term that refers to the same entity in every possible world in which that entity exists. Proper names are rigid designators, unlike definite descriptions, which can refer to different objects in different possible worlds.

What does Kripke mean by 'necessary a posteriori' truths?

Necessary a posteriori truths are statements that are necessarily true (true in all possible worlds) but can only be known through empirical investigation, such as 'Water is H₂O.' This challenges the traditional view that necessity is knowable a priori.

How does 'Naming and Necessity' impact the philosophy of language?

'Naming and Necessity' revolutionized the philosophy of language by introducing the concept of rigid designation, rejecting descriptivism, and showing how names function differently from descriptions, influencing theories of reference and meaning.

What role do possible worlds play in Kripke's 'Naming and Necessity'?

Possible worlds are used by Kripke to explain modal notions like necessity and possibility. Rigid designators refer to the same object across all possible worlds, which helps clarify how we understand identity and necessity in modal contexts.

Can you explain the 'causal theory of reference' proposed by Kripke?

Kripke's causal theory of reference suggests that a name's reference is fixed by an initial 'baptism' and then passed along through a causal chain of communication, rather than by a set of descriptive properties associated with the name.

How does Kripke's work address identity statements like 'Hesperus is Phosphorus'?

Kripke argues that identity statements like 'Hesperus is Phosphorus' are necessarily true if true at all, because both names rigidly designate the same object (Venus). However, their truth is discovered a posteriori, through empirical investigation.

What criticisms have been raised against Kripke's 'Naming and Necessity'?

Some criticisms include challenges to the causal theory of reference, debates over the rigidity of designators, and arguments that descriptivist elements still play a role in naming. Some also question the scope of necessary a posteriori knowledge.

Additional Resources

Saul Kripke Naming and Necessity: A Pivotal Moment in Analytic Philosophy

saul kripke naming and necessity represents a landmark contribution to the field of analytic philosophy, particularly in the philosophy of language and metaphysics. Published initially as a series of lectures in 1970 and later as a book in 1980, Kripke's work challenged established views on reference, meaning, and necessity, reshaping contemporary understanding in profound ways. His exploration into how names function and the nature of necessary truths sparked intense debate and opened new avenues for philosophical inquiry.

The Intellectual Context of Saul Kripke's Work

Before Kripke's intervention, the dominant theories about names and necessity were largely influenced by descriptivist theories advanced by philosophers like Frege, Russell, and later, the logical positivists. These theories proposed that the meaning of a proper name could be equated with a description or a set of descriptions that the referent satisfies. For example, the name "Aristotle" would mean "the student of Plato who tutored Alexander the Great," or some similar bundle of attributes.

Kripke's lectures in Naming and Necessity directly challenged this descriptivist framework. He argued that proper names are rigid designators — terms that refer to the same object in every possible world in which that object exists, regardless of the object's properties in those worlds. This idea was revolutionary because it separated the notion of reference from the descriptive content traditionally thought to fix the meaning of names.

Rigid Designators vs. Descriptive Theories

One of the core contributions of Saul Kripke Naming and Necessity is the introduction of the concept of rigid designators. According to Kripke, names do not function like definite descriptions; instead, they directly refer to objects without the mediation of a description. This leads to several important distinctions:

- **Rigid designators:** Terms that refer to the same entity in every possible world where that entity exists.
- **Non-rigid designators:** Descriptions or general terms that may refer to different entities in

different possible worlds.

For instance, the name “Saul Kripke” rigidly designates the philosopher himself in every possible world where he exists. In contrast, the description “the inventor of the telephone” does not rigidly designate Alexander Graham Bell because in some possible worlds, someone else might have invented the telephone.

Exploring the Modal Notions of Necessity and Contingency

Another dimension of Kripke’s work concerns the nature of necessity and contingency, particularly how these concepts relate to identity statements and reference. Prior to Kripke, many philosophers believed that necessary truths were known a priori (independent of experience), and contingent truths were known a posteriori (dependent on experience).

Kripke disrupted this traditional association by demonstrating the existence of necessary a posteriori truths — statements that are necessarily true but known through empirical investigation. For example, “Water is H₂O” is necessarily true because water’s chemical composition cannot be otherwise; however, this fact was discovered through scientific inquiry, not pure reasoning.

Necessary A Posteriori Truths

This insight has significant implications for metaphysics and epistemology:

- **Identity statements:** Kripke argues that identity statements involving rigid designators, such as “Hesperus is Phosphorus” (the evening star is the morning star), are necessarily true if true at all, even though their truth was discovered empirically.
- **Essential properties:** Objects have essential properties that they possess in every possible world in which they exist, which challenges the view that all properties are contingent.

These ideas have influenced debates in the philosophy of science, especially regarding the nature of scientific laws and the metaphysical status of natural kinds.

The Causal Theory of Reference

Integral to Saul Kripke Naming and Necessity is the causal theory of reference, which Kripke developed to explain how names maintain their reference across possible worlds without descriptive content. This theory posits that the reference of a name is fixed by an initial “baptism” — a direct naming event — followed by a causal chain of communication linking subsequent uses of the name to

the original referent.

Features of the Causal Theory

- **Initial baptism:** The moment an object is named, often involving direct interaction or ostension.
- **Causal chain:** The transmission of the name through linguistic communities, preserving its reference despite changes in belief or description.
- **Independence from descriptions:** The theory explains how speakers can refer successfully even if their beliefs about the referent are incorrect.

This approach contrasts sharply with descriptivist theories, which struggle to account for successful reference in cases where speakers lack accurate or unique descriptions of the referent.

Impact and Criticisms of Kripke's Theory

The publication of *Naming and Necessity* had a seismic effect on analytic philosophy, inspiring extensive discussion and follow-up research. Kripke's ideas influenced not only philosophy of language but also metaphysics, epistemology, and even linguistics.

However, the theory is not without its critics. Some argue that the causal theory underestimates the role of speaker intentions and social context in fixing reference. Others point out difficulties in explaining how the causal chain is maintained over time, especially in cases of name change or mistaken reference.

Major Critiques Include:

1. **Descriptivist rebuttals:** Some philosophers defend refined versions of descriptivism, arguing that names are associated with clusters of descriptions rather than a single one, which can account for some of Kripke's observations.
2. **Social constructivist perspectives:** Highlight the communal and negotiable nature of reference, challenging the idea of fixed causal chains.
3. **Psychological considerations:** Focus on how speakers actually use and understand names in communication, proposing that cognitive aspects are more complex than the causal theory suggests.

Despite these debates, Kripke's work remains a foundational text, setting a new agenda for discussions about language and metaphysics.

Legacy and Continuing Relevance

Decades after its initial publication, Saul Kripke *Naming and Necessity* continues to be a central reference point in philosophy. Its concepts of rigid designation, necessary a posteriori truths, and the causal theory of reference have become standard tools for philosophers analyzing language and meaning.

Additionally, Kripke's work has influenced interdisciplinary fields such as cognitive science and artificial intelligence, where questions about naming, reference, and categorization are also crucial.

Kripke's lectures not only advanced analytic philosophy but also demonstrated the power of clear, rigorous argumentation in challenging entrenched philosophical doctrines. For students and scholars alike, they remain a vital resource for understanding the complexities of language, thought, and reality.

In exploring Saul Kripke *Naming and Necessity*, one encounters a rich interplay of logic, language, and metaphysics that continues to inspire and provoke philosophical reflection, underscoring the enduring importance of this seminal work.

Saul Kripke Naming And Necessity

saul kripke naming and necessity: Naming and Necessity Saul A. Kripke, 1980 If there is such a thing as essential reading in metaphysics or in philosophy of language, this is it. Ever since the publication of its original version, *Naming and Necessity* has had great and increasing influence. It redirected philosophical attention to neglected questions of natural and metaphysical necessity and to the connections between these and theories of reference, in particular of naming, and of identity. From a critique of the dominant tendency to assimilate names to descriptions and more generally to treat their reference as a function of their Fregean sense, surprisingly deep and widespread consequences may be drawn. The largely discredited distinction between accidental and essential properties, both of individual things (including people) and of kinds of things, is revived. So is a consequent view of science as what seeks out the essences of natural kinds. Traditional objections to such views are dealt with by sharpening distinctions between epistemic and metaphysical necessity; in particular by the startling admission of necessary a posteriori truths. From these, in particular from identity statements using rigid designators whether of things or of kinds, further remarkable consequences are drawn for the natures of things, of people, and of kinds; strong objections follow, for example to identity versions of materialism as a theory of the mind. This seminal work, to which today's thriving essentialist metaphysics largely owes its impetus, is here published with a substantial new Preface by the author.

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by the author. If there is such a thing as essential reading in metaphysics, or in philosophy of language, this is it

saul kripke naming and necessity: Naming, Necessity and More Jonathan Berg, 2014-12-03
Saul Kripke's *Naming and Necessity* was one of the most influential philosophical works of the twentieth century. In this collection of essays leading specialists explore issues arising from this and other works of Kripke's.

saul kripke naming and necessity: Naming and Necessity Saul A. Kripke, 2024-07-03
NAMING AND NECESSITY "Much of the philosophical work of the last half-century could not have existed without *Naming and Necessity*. If you read this marvelous book, you'll find out why." David Chalmers, University Professor of Philosophy and Neural Science and co-director of the Center for Mind, Brain, and Consciousness, NYU "Naming and Necessity represents a turning-point in the development of modern philosophy. It showed how confusions in the philosophy of language had blocked progress in metaphysics, and it provided a model of systematic philosophical theorizing informed by innovations in logic." Timothy Williamson, Wykeham Professor of Logic Emeritus, Oxford University "Naming and Necessity is, arguably, the most important philosophical work in the last 100 years, with major implications for logic, metaphysics, epistemology, and our understanding of language. By showing that meaning, modality, and cognition aren't 'in the head,' but rather are constituted by our relations with people and things, Kripke reinvigorated philosophy by shining new light on reference, essence, necessity, and apriority." Scott Soames, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at the University of Southern California "Kripke's *Naming and Necessity* was a game-changer in English-speaking philosophy, giving birth to a new era of debates in metaphysics, semantics, and epistemology. 50 years later, there is still much to be learned from the book, and this anniversary edition is just the thing to take us back to the text and see it with new eyes." Graham Priest, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, the CUNY Graduate Center, and Boyce Gibson Professor Emeritus, the University of Melbourne Since first appearing in 1972, Saul Kripke's *Naming and Necessity* has shaped and continues to shape debates in metaphysics, the philosophy of language, and adjacent areas. It overturned long-established views concerning the relationships between names and descriptions and a priority and necessity, and catalyzed today's thriving essentialist metaphysics. This landmark work is here reissued for its 50th anniversary with a new preface by the author revisiting its central themes, and a new foreword by Romina Birman, Director of the Saul Kripke Center. If there is such a thing as essential reading in analytic philosophy, this is it.

saul kripke naming and necessity: Philosophy of Language Susana Nuccetelli, Gary Seay, 2008 This collection of classic and contemporary essays in philosophy of language offers a concise introduction to the field for students in graduate and upper-division undergraduate courses. It includes some of the most important basic sources in philosophy of language, as well as new essays by scholars on the leading edge of innovation in this increasingly influential area of philosophy. Each chapter is preceded the editors' introduction.

saul kripke naming and necessity: *Readings in the Philosophy of Language* Peter Ludlow, 1997 A central theme of this collection is that the philosophy of language, at least a core portion of it, has matured to the point where it is now being spun off into linguistic theory.

saul kripke naming and necessity: The Structure of Thinking Laura E. Weed, 2003 This book presents an alternative, naturalistic view of human thinking, arguing that computers are merely sophisticated machines.

saul kripke naming and necessity: Routledge Philosophy GuideBook to Kripke and Naming and Necessity Harold Noonan, 2014-05-09 Saul Kripke is one of the most important philosophers of the twentieth century. His most celebrated work, *Naming and Necessity*, makes arguably the most important contribution to the philosophy of language and metaphysics in recent years. Asking fundamental questions – how do names refer to things in the world? Do objects have essential properties? What are natural kind terms and to what do they refer? – he challenges prevailing theories of language and conceptions of metaphysics, especially the descriptivist account

of reference, which Kripke argues is found in Frege, Wittgenstein and Russell, and the anti-essentialist metaphysics of Quine. In this invaluable guidebook to Kripke's classic work, Harold Noonan introduces and assesses: Kripke's life and the background to his philosophy the ideas and text of *Naming and Necessity* the continuing importance of Kripke's work to the philosophy of language and metaphysics. The Routledge Philosophy GuideBook to Kripke and *Naming and Necessity* is an ideal starting point for anyone coming Kripke's work for the first time. It is essential reading for philosophy students studying philosophy of language, metaphysics, logic, or the history of analytic philosophy.

saul kripke naming and necessity: Kripke : Names, Necessity, and Identity Christopher Hughes, 2004-01-15 Saul Kripke, in a series of classic writings of the 1960s and 1970s, changed the face of metaphysics and philosophy of language. Christopher Hughes offers a careful exposition and critical analysis of Kripke's central ideas about names, necessity, and identity. He clears up some common misunderstandings of Kripke's views on rigid designation, causality and reference, the necessary and the contingent, the a posteriori and the a priori. Through his engagement with Kripke's ideas Hughes makes a significant contribution to ongoing debates on, inter alia, the semantics of natural kind terms, the nature of natural kinds, the essentiality of origin and constitution, the relative merits of 'identitarian' and counterpart-theoretic accounts of modality, and the identity or otherwise of mental types and tokens with physical types and tokens. No specialist knowledge in either the philosophy of language or metaphysics is presupposed; Hughes's book will be valuable for anyone working on the ideas which Kripke made famous in the philosophy world.

saul kripke naming and necessity: The Bounds of Freedom: Kant's Causal Theory of Action Robert Greenberg, 2016-09-26 This monograph is a new interpretation of Kant's atemporal conception of the causality of the freedom of the will. The interpretation is based on an analysis of Kant's primary conception of an action, viz., as a causal consequence of the will. The analysis in turn is based on H. P. Grice's causal theory of perception and on P. F. Strawson's modification of the theory. The monograph rejects the customary assumption that Kant's maxim of an action is a causal determination of the action. It assumes instead that the maxim is definitive of the action, and since its main thesis is that an action for Kant is to be primarily understood as an effect of the will, it concludes that the maxim of an action can only be its logical determination. Kant's atemporal conception of the causality of free will is confronted not only by contemporary philosophical conceptions of causality, but by Kant's own complementary theory of causality, in the Second Analogy of Experience. According to this latter conception, causality is a natural relation among physical and psychological objects, and is therefore a temporal relation among them. Faced with this conflict, Kant scholars like Allen W. Wood either reject Kant's atemporal conception of causality or like Henry E. Allison accept it, but only in an anodyne form. Both camps, however, make the aforementioned assumption that Kant's maxim of an action is a causal determination of the action. The monograph, rejecting the assumption, belongs to neither camp.

saul kripke naming and necessity: *The Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Kripke and Naming and Necessity* Harold W. Noonan, 2013 Saul Kripke is one of the most important philosophers of the twentieth century. His most celebrated work, *Naming and Necessity*, makes arguably the most important contribution to the philosophy of language and metaphysics in recent years. Asking fundamental questions – how do names refer to things in the world? Do objects have essential properties? What are natural kind terms and to what do they refer? – he challenges prevailing theories of language and conceptions of metaphysics, especially the descriptivist account of reference, which Kripke argues is found in Frege, Wittgenstein and Russell, and the anti-essentialist metaphysics of Quine. In this invaluable guidebook to Kripke's classic work, Harold Noonan introduces and assesses: Kripke's life and the background to his philosophy the ideas and text of *Naming and Necessity* the continuing importance of Kripke's work to the philosophy of language and metaphysics. The Routledge Philosophy GuideBook to Kripke and *Naming and Necessity* is an ideal starting point for anyone coming Kripke's work for the first time. It is essential reading for philosophy students studying philosophy of language, metaphysics, logic, or the history

of analytic philosophy.

saul kripke naming and necessity: *The Ashtray* Errol Morris, 2023-02-17 In 1972, philosopher of science Thomas Kuhn threw an ashtray at Errol Morris. This book is the result. At the time, Morris was a graduate student. Now we know him as one of the most celebrated and restlessly probing filmmakers of our time, the creator of such classics of documentary investigation as *The Thin Blue Line* and *The Fog of War*. Kuhn, meanwhile, was--and, posthumously, remains--a star in his field, the author of *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, a landmark book that has sold well over a million copies and introduced the concept of paradigm shifts to the larger culture. And Morris thought the idea was bunk. *The Ashtray* tells why--and in doing so, it makes a powerful case for Morris's way of viewing the world, and the centrality to that view of a fundamental conception of the necessity of truth. For me, Morris writes, truth is about the relationship between language and the world: a correspondence idea of truth. He has no patience for philosophical systems that aim for internal coherence and disdain the world itself. Morris is after bigger game: he wants to establish as clearly as possible what we know and can say about the world, reality, history, our actions and interactions. It's the fundamental desire that animates his filmmaking, whether he's probing Robert McNamara about Vietnam or the oddball owner of a pet cemetery. Truth may be slippery, but that doesn't mean we have to grease its path of escape through philosophical evasions. Rather, Morris argues powerfully, it is our duty to do everything we can to establish and support it.

saul kripke naming and necessity: *Reference and Existence* Saul A. Kripke, 2013-06-06 This volume collects Saul Kripke's Locke Lectures, which were delivered in Oxford in 1973.

saul kripke naming and necessity: *Central Works of Philosophy v5* John Shand, 2014-12-18 *Central Works of Philosophy* is a major multi-volume collection of essays on the core texts of the Western philosophical tradition. From Plato's *Republic* to the present day, the five volumes range over 2,500 years of philosophical writing covering the best, most representative, and most influential work of some of our greatest philosophers. Each essay has been specially commissioned and provides an overview of the work, clear and authoritative exposition of its central ideas, and an assessment of the work's importance. Together these books provide an unrivaled companion for studying and reading philosophy, one that introduces the reader to the masterpieces of the western philosophical canon. This volume covers the central texts in the history of analytic philosophy from Quine's *Word and Object* (1960) to the present day. The texts range over political philosophy, ethics, metaphysics and the philosophies of language, mind and logic and represent some of the most important philosophical work of the last forty years. Students and non-specialists who may find the technicality of some of the texts forbidding will welcome the clarity of exposition and exegesis that the essays provide. Taken together the essays provide both a map and compass for the current philosophical landscape and will prove a valuable resource not only for undergraduate and postgraduate philosophy students but for teachers and researchers in allied disciplines who need an understanding of the preoccupations of contemporary philosophy.

saul kripke naming and necessity: *Philosophical Troubles* Saul A. Kripke, 2011-11-10 This important new book is the first of a series of volumes collecting the essential articles by the eminent and highly influential philosopher Saul A. Kripke. It presents a mixture of published and unpublished articles from various stages of Kripke's storied career.

saul kripke naming and necessity: *The Routledge Companion to Twentieth Century Philosophy* Dermot Moran, 2008-10-27 Featuring twenty-two chapters written by leading international scholars, this major publication covers all the key figures and movements from Frege to Derrida and philosophy of language to feminist philosophy.

saul kripke naming and necessity: *Saul Kripke* G. W. Fitch, 2004 Saul Kripke is one of the most original and creative philosophers writing today. His work has had a tremendous impact on the direction that philosophy has taken in the last thirty years and continues to dominate some of its most fundamental aspects. Given Kripke's importance it is perhaps surprising that there is no introduction to his philosophy available to the general student. This book fills that gap. As much of Kripke's work is highly technical, the book's central aim is to provide clear exposition of Kripke's

ideas in a form that is understandable to a beginning readership as well as a commentary on them that more advanced students will find useful. The book begins with a discussion of Kripke's early work on modal logic, which provides the foundation for many of his later philosophical contributions, before examining in detail Kripke's central ideas and arguments contained in *Naming and Necessity*. These include his account of ordinary proper names, his theory of reference, his conception of necessity and the nature of identity, his views on theoretical identifications, the puzzle of belief, and his argument against materialism. In further chapters Kripke's work on semantic paradoxes and his theory of truth are outlined as well as his controversial interpretation of Wittgenstein's famous private language argument. Kripke's ideas are situated alongside those of his precursors and some of the most important and interesting responses to them are explored. The reader is thus able to appreciate the path-breaking nature of Kripke's contributions, how they have challenged fundamentally traditional interpretations, and how they have sparked some of the most important philosophical debates of recent years. Book jacket.

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