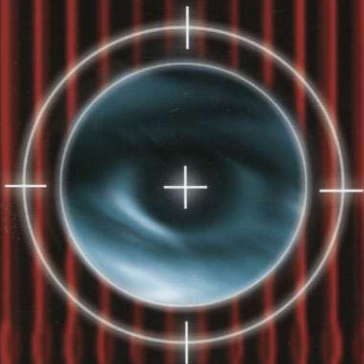




THE

MATRIX

AND PHILOSOPHY



WELCOME TO THE DESERT OF THE REAL

EDITED BY WILLIAM IRWIN

# Contents

Acknowledgments	viii
Introduction: Meditations on <i>The Matrix</i>	1
Scene 1	
How Do You Know?	3
1. Computers, Caves, and Oracles: Neo and Socrates WILLIAM IRWIN	5
2. Skepticism, Morality, and <i>The Matrix</i> GERALD J. ERION and BARRY SMITH	16
3. The Matrix Possibility DAVID MITSUO NIXON	28
4. Seeing, Believing, Touching, Truth CAROLYN KORSMEYER	41
Scene 2	
The Desert of the Real	53
5. The Metaphysics of <i>The Matrix</i> JORGE J.E. GRACIA and JONATHAN J. SANFORD	55
6. The Machine-Made Ghost: Or, The Philosophy of Mind, Matrix Style JASON HOLT	66
7. Neo-Materialism and the Death of the Subject DANIEL BARWICK	75
8. Fate, Freedom, and Foreknowledge THEODORE SCHICK, JR.	87

## Scene 3

### Down the Rabbit Hole of Ethics and Religion 99

9. There Is No Spoon: A Buddhist Mirror  
MICHAEL BRANNIGAN 101
10. The Religion of *The Matrix* and the Problems of Pluralism  
GREGORY BASSHAM 111
11. Happiness and Cypher's Choice: Is Ignorance Bliss?  
CHARLES L. GRISWOLD, Jr. 126
12. We Are (the) One! Kant Explains How to Manipulate the Matrix  
JAMES LAWLER 138

## Scene 4

### Virtual Themes 153

13. Notes from Ljnderground: Nihilism and *The Matrix*  
THOMAS S. HIBBS 155
14. Popping a Bitter Pill: Existential Authenticity in *The Matrix* and *Nausea*  
JENNIFER L. McMAHON 166
15. The Paradox of Real Response to Neo-Fiction  
SARAH E. WORTH 178
16. Real Genre and Virtual Philosophy  
DEBORAH KNIGHT and GEORGE MCKNIGHT 188

## Scene 5

### De-Construct-Ing *The Matrix* 203

17. Penetrating Keanu: New Holes, but the Same Old Shit  
CYNTHIA FREELAND 205
18. *The Matrix*, Marx, and the Coppertop's Life  
MARTIN A. DANAHAY AND DAVID RIEDER 216

19.	<i>The Matrix</i> Simulation and the Postmodern Age DAVID WEBERMAN	225
20.	The Matrix: Or, The Two Sides of Perversion SLAVOJ ZIZEK	240
	The Potentials	267
	The Oracle's Index	273