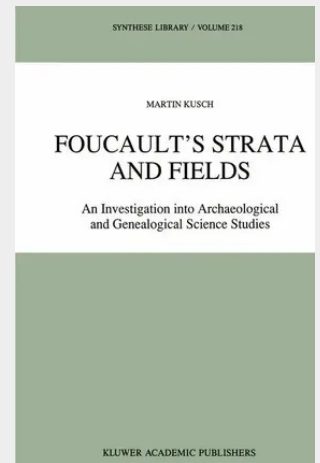


Foucault's Strata and Fields

An Investigation into Archaeological and Genealogical Science Studies

In recent years, a large number of books and articles on Foucault has been published. Almost all of the book-size studies are expository and introductory. Indeed, there seems to be no other modern philosopher with reference to whom a comparable number of introductions have been produced in such a short period. Most of the articles too provide overviews, rather than critical assessments or rational reconstructions, even though there exists by now a small number of fine papers also in the two latter genres. Moreover, more often than not, writers on Foucault approach his work as part and parcel of so-called "postmodern" philosophy. They concentrate on topics like the "death of the subject", the relation of Foucault's work to Derrida or Habermas, or its significance for postmodern art and culture. Without wanting to deny the merits, either of introductory expositions, or of studies that read Foucault as a postmodern thinker, it seems to me that these received perspectives have tended to leave central areas and aspects of Foucault's work somewhat underexposed. As I see it, the most important of these areas are such as would suggest reading Foucault from the vantage point of recent developments in the philosophy, sociology and history of science.

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