



# THE MIDWEST BOOK REVIEW

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## The Philosophy Shelf

Reading Richard Dawkins  
Gary Keogh  
Fortress Press  
P.O. Box 1209, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1209  
<http://fortresspress.com>  
9781451472042, \$49.00, [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

Clinton Richard Dawkins (born 26 March 1941) is an English ethologist, evolutionary biologist, and popular author. He is an emeritus fellow of New College, Oxford, and was the University of Oxford's Professor for Public Understanding of Science from 1995 until 2008. Dawkins first came to prominence with his 1976 book "The Selfish Gene", which popularized the gene-centered view of evolution and introduced the term meme. In 1982, he introduced into evolutionary biology the influential concept that the phenotypic effects of a gene are not necessarily limited to an organism's body, but can stretch far into the environment, including the bodies of other organisms; this concept is presented in his book "The Extended Phenotype". Dawkins is an atheist, a vice president of the British Humanist Association. He is well known for his criticism of creationism and intelligent design. In his 1986 book "The Blind

Watchmaker", he argues against the watchmaker analogy, an argument for the existence of a supernatural creator based upon the complexity of living organisms. Instead, he describes evolutionary processes as analogous to a blind watchmaker. He has since written several popular science books, and makes regular television and radio appearances, predominantly discussing these topics. In his 2006 book "The God Delusion", Dawkins contends that a supernatural creator almost certainly does not exist and that religious faith is a delusion - "a fixed false belief". "Reading Richard Dawkins: A Theological Dialogue with New Atheism" by Gary Keogh (Adjunct Lecturer, All Hallows College, Dublin City University) is a 272 page compendium comprised of five erudite and perceptive essays in refutation of Dawkins' atheist assertions. The essays include: A Distinct Methodological Framework; Encountering Evolution: Dawkins' Perspectives; Beyond Biology: An Evolutionary Weltanschauung; Religion: An Evolutionary View; Evil, Evolution, and God: Dawkins and Theology in Dialogue. Articulate examples of incisive scholarship, "Reading Richard Dawkins: A Theological Dialogue with New Atheism" is very highly recommended reading and a critically important addition to seminary and academic library Religion & Philosophy collections. It should be noted that "Reading Richard Dawkins: A Theological Dialogue with New Atheism" is also available in a Kindle edition (\$30.39).