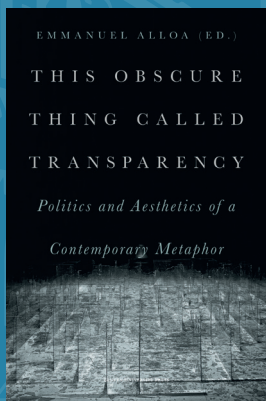


# This Obscure Thing Called Transparency

## Politics and Aesthetics of a Contemporary Metaphor

EMMANUEL ALLOA (ED.)



€ 55,00 / £49.00 / \$68.00

ISBN 978 94 6270 325 4

March 2022

Paperback, 15,6 x 23,4 cm

348 p.

English

*ebook available*



### The paradoxical logic of transparency and mediation

Transparency is the metaphor of our time. Whether in government or corporate governance, finance, technology, health or the media – it is ubiquitous today, and there is hardly a current debate that does not call for more transparency. But what does this word actually stand for and what are the consequences for the life of individuals? Can knowledge from the arts, and its play of visibility and invisibility, tell us something about the paradoxical logics of transparency and mediation? *This Obscure Thing Called Transparency* gathers contributions by international experts who critically assess the promises and perils of transparency today.

**Emmanuel Alloa** is professor of aesthetics and philosophy of art at the Philosophy Department of the University of Fribourg.



ORDER ONLINE AT [WWW.LUP.BE](http://WWW.LUP.BE)

## Table of content

1. "SEEING THROUGH A GLASS, DARKLY" - The Transparency Paradox  
*Emmanuel Alloa*

### PART I - POLITICS

2. IN DEFENSE OF TRANSPARENCY  
*Phillipe Van Parijs*
3. THE USES AND ABUSES OF TRANSPARENCY  
*David Heald*
4. THE POLITICAL IMPERATIVE OF TRANSPARENCY - Its Grounds and Limits  
*Dorota Mokrosinska*
5. FEED - State Transparency amidst Informational Surplus  
*Mark Fenster*
6. ALGORITHMIC TRANSPARENCY - On the Rise of a New Normative Ideal and Its Silenced Performative Implications  
*Loup Cellard*
7. TRANSPARENCY, PUBLICITY, SECRECY AND MENDACITY - Four Shades of Political Visibility  
*John Pitseys*
8. WHY TRANSPARENCY HAS LITTLE (IF ANYTHING) TO DO WITH THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT  
*Emmanuel Alloa*
9. THE CONFESSING ANIMAL - Foucault and Christianity  
*Patrick Vandermeersch*

### PART II - AESTHETICS

10. COMMUNICATION, MANIPULATION, SEDUCTION - The Pragmatics of Transparency  
*Herman Parret*
11. TRANSPARENCY AND OBSTACLE IN ARCHITECTURE - From Le Corbusier to Rem Koolhaas  
*Christophe Van Gerrewey*
12. TROPPO VERO! - Opacity, Density, Noise and Thickness of Images  
*Vlad Ionescu*
13. THE LAYERED IMAGE - Transparency, Time and Memory in Proust  
*Sara Guindani*
14. WITH HIDDEN NOISE - The Rattle of Marcel Duchamp  
*Bart Verschaffel*
15. THROUGH THE WINDOW OR BEYOND THE MIRROR - The Phantasmagorias of Transparency and Reflexiveness in Film  
*Natacha Pfeiffer*
16. MESSAGES ON GLASS - Transparency in Times of COVID-19  
*Riccardo Donati*

### NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

## HOW TO ORDER

### Customers in UK and Europe

Order fulfilment and Sales Representation in UK and Europe (excluding the Benelux)  
Ingram Publisher Services UK: [IPSUK.Cservs@ingramcontent.com](mailto:IPSUK.Cservs@ingramcontent.com)

### Customers in the Netherlands

Bookshops in the Netherlands can order through CB: [www.cb.nl](http://www.cb.nl)

### Customers in the USA and Canada

Longleaf Services, Inc.:  
[customerservice@longleafservices.org](mailto:customerservice@longleafservices.org)

### Representation in China

Inspirees International: [www.inspirees.com](http://www.inspirees.com)

### Distribution in Japan

MHM Limited: [www.mhmlimited.co.jp](http://www.mhmlimited.co.jp)



Leuven University Press  
Minderbroedersstraat 4  
3000 Leuven  
Belgium  
T + 32 16 32 53 45  
F + 32 16 32 53 52  
E [info@lup.be](mailto:info@lup.be)  
W [www.lup.be](http://www.lup.be)



ORDER ONLINE AT [WWW.LUP.BE](http://WWW.LUP.BE)