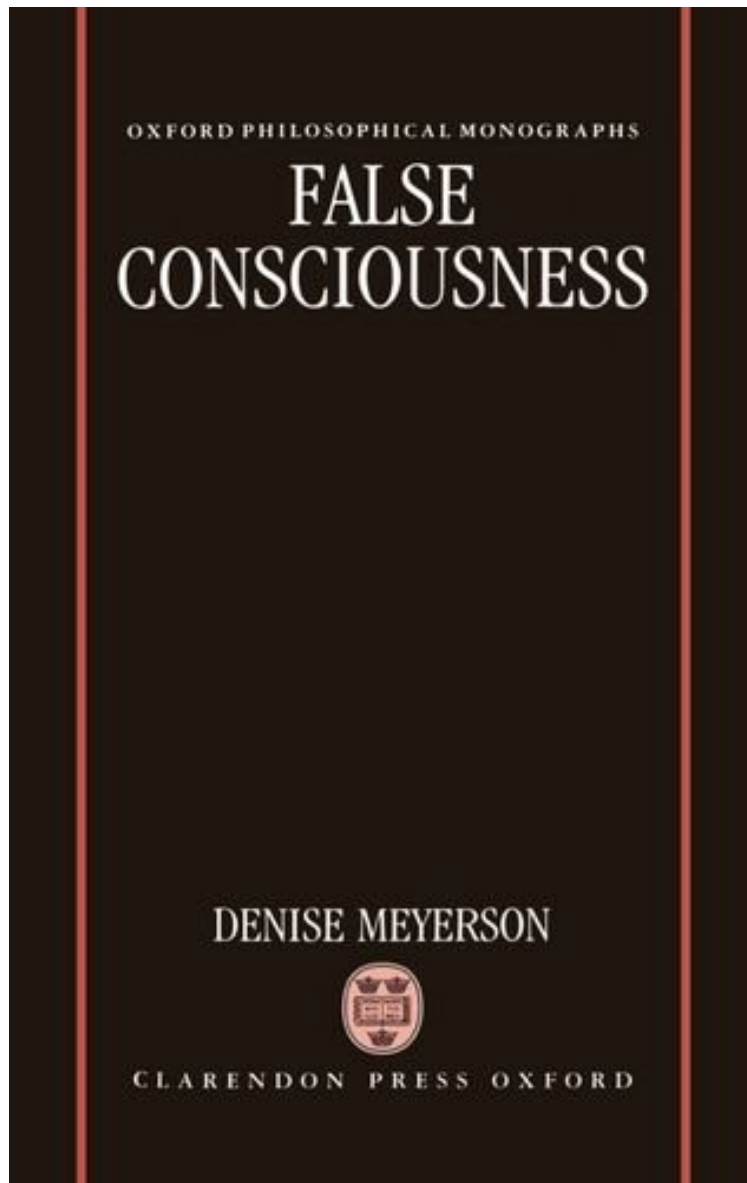


(Download free pdf) False Consciousness (Oxford Philosophical Monographs)

False Consciousness (Oxford Philosophical Monographs)

Denise Meyerson

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#6872623 in Books 1991-07-25 Original language: English 8.81 x .87 x 5.69l, .89 #File Name: 0198248199200 pages | File size: 73.Mb

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This book is a contribution both to analytical philosophy of mind, and to Marxist philosophy. Marxists see pervasive

irrationality in the conduct of human affairs, and claim that people in a class-divided society are prone to a variety of misconceptions. They say that we can suffer from "false consciousness" in our views about what inspires our behavior and in our judgments as to what is good for us. Meyerson uses the techniques of analytic philosophy to investigate this picture and argues that Marxism is committed to the idea of motivated belief, and that the idea is philosophically defensible. She shows that there are other philosophically defensible claims which are congenial to Marxism: that there are facts about interests, that interests are not based on wants, that a desire can be contaminated by its history, that our judgments about our interests do not automatically motivate us, and that beliefs can survive the evidence that they are false. Meyerson throws light on puzzling psychological phenomena which confront everyone in their everyday political experience.

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