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Publisher's synopsis:

The author presents a systematic account of the philosophy of Hilary Putnam, one of the leading 20th Century American philosophers. This is the first account to be published in the German-speaking world, as the discussion of Putnam's work is conducted principally in specialist journals. In the first section, the author traces the development of Putnam's work. Contrary to the popular view of the discontinuity of Putnam's philosophy, he demonstrates that from the earliest phases Putnam assumes certain language-philosophical foundations of the fallibility of claims to knowledge and develops these epistemologically. The second section describes the consequences of Putnam's now famous theory of meaning and reference. The third section develops its basic normative premisses and presents them as a pragmatic alternative to both metaphysical approaches (Kripke, Devitt) and sceptical approaches (Quine).