



## UvA-DARE (Digital Academic Repository)

### Echoes of friendship & enmity

*Agonal and political thinking in Friedrich Nietzsche and Carl Schmitt*

Seminck, V.

#### Publication date

2024

[Link to publication](#)

#### Citation for published version (APA):

Seminck, V. (2024). *Echoes of friendship & enmity: Agonal and political thinking in Friedrich Nietzsche and Carl Schmitt*. [Thesis, externally prepared, Universiteit van Amsterdam].

#### General rights

It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

#### Disclaimer/Complaints regulations

If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: <https://uba.uva.nl/en/contact>, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.

Doctoral thesis  
University of Amsterdam  
Faculty of Humanities

Vincent Seminck studied law and philosophy at the University of Amsterdam and Leiden University. He is currently a lecturer at the Utrecht University School of Law.

In the 1933 edition of *The Concept of the Political*, Schmitt states that there is a 'great metaphysical opposition' between Nietzsche's agonal and his own political account of friendship and enmity. This is perhaps surprising, given that the German jurist Carl Schmitt (1888-1985) belonged to a circle of intellectuals in the Weimar Republic who used Nietzsche's philosophy of conflict, friendship and enmity to criticise the fragile liberal democracy, paving the way for the National Socialist revolution. In fact, the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) was no less critical of the German nationalism of his day than he was of liberal democracy. This book describes, evaluates and compares the ideas of conflict, friendship and enmity in the respective thought of Nietzsche and Schmitt, which still resonate in political rhetoric today.



UvA

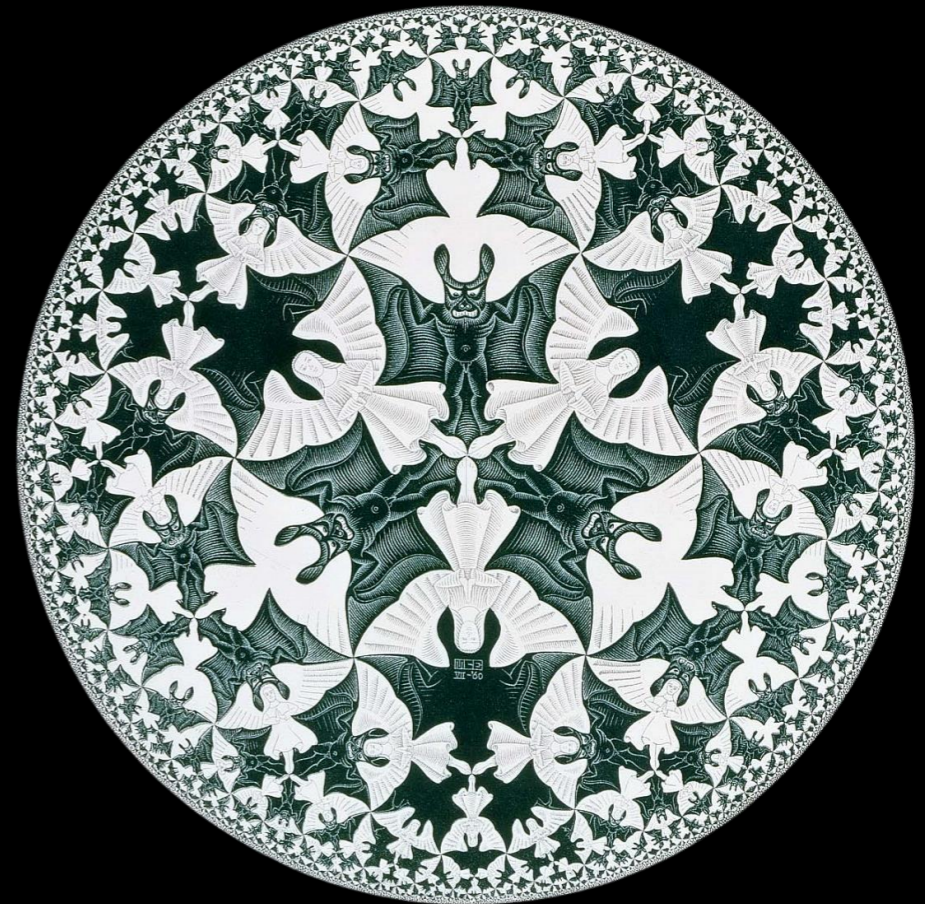


Vincent Seminck

*Echoes of Friendship & Enmity*

# Echoes of Friendship & Enmity

*Agonal and Political Thinking in  
Friedrich Nietzsche and Carl Schmitt*



Vincent Seminck



UvA

*Echoes of friendship & enmity*

Doctoral thesis, University of Amsterdam (UvA) – Faculty of Humanities, The Netherlands

© 2024 V. Seminck, Amsterdam, NL

All rights reserved. No part of this thesis may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without prior permission of the author. Permission for use can be obtained from V. Seminck.

Layout: V. Seminck

Cover design: J.A.N. Zandieh Doulabi, R. Atahiri & V. Seminck

Cover illustration: M. C. Escher, *Hemel en Hel* (1960), Museum Escher in Het Paleis, Den Haag, NL, <[www.escherinhetpaleis.nl](http://www.escherinhetpaleis.nl)>

Printing: Optima Grafische Communicatie, Rotterdam, NL, <[www.ogc.nl](http://www.ogc.nl)>

ISBN: 978-90-9038336-1

NUR: 730

Echoes of friendship & enmity  
Agonal and political thinking in Friedrich Nietzsche and Carl Schmitt

## ACADEMISCH PROEFSCHRIFT

ter verkrijging van de graad van doctor  
aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam  
op gezag van de Rector Magnificus  
prof. dr. ir. P.P.C.C. Verbeek  
ten overstaan van een door het College voor Promoties ingestelde commissie,  
in het openbaar te verdedigen in de Agnietenkapel  
op vrijdag 3 mei 2024, te 13.00 uur

door Vincent Seminck  
geboren te Amsterdam

***Promotiecommissie***

<i>Promotores:</i>	prof. dr. J. Früchtl prof. dr. M. de Wilde	Universiteit van Amsterdam Universiteit van Amsterdam
<i>Overige leden:</i>	prof. dr. M. Roelofs prof. mr. dr. I. van Domselaar prof. dr. T.W.A. de Wit prof. dr. P.J.M. van Tongeren dr. K.D. Hay Rodgers dr. H.W. Siemens	Universiteit van Amsterdam Universiteit van Amsterdam Tilburg University Radboud Universiteit Universiteit van Amsterdam Universiteit Leiden

Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen