

Contents

Introduction *1*

The neglect of existential feeling *1*

Phenomenology and the sense of reality *4*

Summary of the argument *10*

Part I **The structure of existential feeling**

1 Emotions and bodily feelings *17*

The dismissal of 'mere affect' *17*

Solomon on emotion and the meaning of life *21*

Uniting cognition and affect *26*

Emotions as embodied appraisals *28*

Emotions as bodily judgements *31*

Bodily feelings and feelings towards *33*

Feeling is not 'mere affect' *35*

2 Existential feelings *41*

Heidegger on practical understanding *42*

Heidegger on mood *47*

Existential feeling as a phenomenological category *52*

The nonsense charge *57*

Existential feelings in autobiographical accounts of
psychiatric illness *61*

Existential feelings in literature and everyday life *65*

Propositional attitudes and the sense of reality *69*

3 The phenomenology of touch *77*

Vision and touch *77*

Touch and proprioception *79*

Aspect shifts *84*

Boundaries *90*

Being in touch with the world *93*

Part II **Varieties of existential feeling in psychiatric illness**

- 4** Body and world 105
 - The feeling body 106
 - The conspicuous body 112
 - The phenomenology of sickness 116
 - Existential feelings, bodily dispositions and possibilities 121
 - Horizons 130
- 5** Feeling and belief in the Capgras delusion 139
 - Interpersonal relations 139
 - The Capgras delusion 143
 - The feeling of unfamiliarity 147
 - Relatedness and recognition 149
 - Perceiving the possible 153
 - Experiencing people 155
 - Experience and belief 159
- 6** Feelings of deadness and depersonalization 165
 - The Cotard delusion 165
 - Against two-factor accounts 170
 - Nothingness 178
 - Depersonalization and double-counting 180
- 7** Existential feeling in schizophrenia 187
 - Early descriptions of schizophrenia 187
 - Phenomenological accounts of schizophrenia 191
 - Inconsistency 196
 - Thought insertion 198
 - Diagnoses and existential feelings 205
 - Kinds of existential feeling 211

Part III **Existential feeling and philosophical thought**

- 8** What William James really said 219
 - Physiology and philosophy 220
 - The role of emotion in experience and thought 224
 - Pragmatism 230
 - Radical empiricism 233
- 9** Stance, feeling and belief 241
 - Feelings and philosophical positions 241

Philosophical stances	248
Stance, commitment and critique	253
Feeling and epistemic disposition	257
Authentic and inauthentic philosophies	259
Conviction and doubt	262
10 Pathologies of existential feeling	269
The nature of religious experience	269
Medical and existential perspectives	276
Medical, epistemic and pragmatic pathologies	279
Existential pathology	284
The poverty of the mechanistic world	289
References	293
Index	305