"What has happened to the self in recent years, especially that interpretation of the self we call the 'subject'? In a wide-ranging and lucid study, John Martis examines several of the theories that have entranced readers of modern French philosophy, while relating them to canonical figures of the past, most notably Augustine. Also proposed is a searching new notion of human subjectivity, the subject as hospitable. Martis invites us to pass from 'I think, therefore I am' to 'I welcome, therefore I am.'"

—KEVIN HART, University of Virginia

"Written with great care and insight, Subjectivity as Radical Hospitality is a welcome addition to the literature in the tradition of Who Comes after the Subject? (Cada, Nancy et al.). Most especially, it offers a close critical reading of Jean-Luc Marion in his engagement with Augustine, a reading that will captivate scholars and students of both. A skilled and astute reader of both phenomenology and deconstruction, Martis develops a thorough and persuasive argument in support of the one he characterizes as the 'self-in-loss.'"

—ROBYN HORN, Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry, Australian Catholic University

Intervening in a lively debate in contemporary European philosophy, Subjectivity as Radical Hospitality offers a new account of the self subjected to experience. Patiently yet vigorously engaging Jean-Luc Marion's reading of selfhood in St. Augustine, John Martis reaches back into the Western philosophical tradition to propose a bold solution to the phenomenological problem of how a self can recognize an Other while remaining itself. Insights from Descartes, Kant, Derrida, Blanchot, Romano, and others are brought together to undergird an account of a self that remains itself only in ceaseless loss to necessary incursions of the Other: "I welcome, therefore I am."

Subjectivity as Radical Hospitality: Recasting the Self with Augustine, Descartes, Marion, and Derrida will be of particular value to students and scholars in continental philosophy and theology.

JOHN MARTIS SJ is senior lecturer at Pilgrim Theological College within the University of Divinity in Melbourne.
Subjectivity as Radical Hospitality

Recasting the Self, with Augustine, Descartes, Marion, and Derrida

John Martis
To PAC, BL, CG, EJ, and LB,
my family,
and my companions in the Society of Jesus