

**Forcing and the Event: A Reconstruction of Alain Badiou's
Mathematical Philosophy in *Being and Event*
(PhD Abstract, 2012)**

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Alain Badiou's *L'Être et L'Événement* [*Being and Event*] (1988) has been enormously influential in reconfiguring the current scene of metaphysical investigations into ontology. But the basic details of its proposed metaontology are still not currently well-understood. My dissertation belongs to a direct attempt at partially filling this gap in the literature. I offer a reconstruction of Badiou's metaontological framework, limiting myself by examining *Being and Event* only in relation to its specific conditioning by the standard mathematics of set theory up to Paul Cohen's discovery of forcing. Badiou recruits four set-theoretic topics for his metaontology: the formal axiomatic system of ZFC; cardinal and ordinal numbers; Kurt Gödel's the constructible; and Paul Cohen's forcing. For each of these topics, I gather together and clarify the relevant details of the technical mathematics while orienting my explication towards Badiou's interpretation. I will then, more importantly, reconstruct and extend Badiou's conceptual and metaontological meditations in relation to their exact conditioning by the mathematics.