The effort of this book in defense of ordinary language philosophy will have a more positive effect on the field of philosophy than any other theoretical defense of the practice that I am aware of. This book has a chance to bring distinct new interest to some of the most interesting (and I hope permanently inspiring) moments of advance in philosophy over the course of the last six or seven decades.

—STANLEY CAVELL, Harvard University

Austin, Wittgenstein and the so-called “ordinary language” tradition in philosophy are at risk of being lost. Not because they have fallen prey to shriveling philosophical arguments, but because for over twenty-five years they have suffered from caricature, dogmatism, neglect, and all-too-facile dismissal by those who would pronounce their teachings dead for contemporary philosophy. Avner Baz has written a courageous, lucid, trenchant, and provocative book, reopening the issue and developing a new outlook on the tradition’s value and prospects. It is filled with questions about history, argumentation, and philosophical method that need answering. If I had to recommend one text showing how fundamental questions of philosophical method still lie at the heart of the analytic tradition, it would be this one.

—JULIET FLOYD, Boston University
Semantic Perception: How the Illusion of a Common Language Arises and Persists

Jody Azzouni