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**Seeking the Image-Maker:  
An Evaluation of Plato's Account of Negation  
and Falsity in the *Sophist***

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the  
requirements for the degree of

Master of Arts  
in  
Philosophy

At Massey University, Manawatu,  
New Zealand.

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2016

## Abstract

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This paper will explore Plato's metaphysical account of negation and falsity as outlined in *Sophist*, and evaluate some scholarly responses to it. It attempts to determine how the Forms interact when we say that something *is not*, or say something that is false. In order to achieve this we begin by examining the notion of a Kind (*genos*) that Plato seems to introduce in *Sophist*. This term is widely assumed to be synonymous with Form (*eidos*); we shall argue that the evidence does not support this, on the grounds that Plato seems to be using Kinds in a new way in *Sophist*, even though he has used the word *genos* before. Second, we consider the question of how a Form or a Kind may be said to have parts, and finally we evaluate some scholarly interpretations of negation and falsity, both on their own merits and in light of what we believe Plato's purpose in seeking an account of negation and falsity has been. We propose some changes to an existing interpretation in order to make it fit more closely the results of our analysis of Kinds and the parts of Forms and so to more closely suit Plato's requirements.

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## Acknowledgements

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My thanks must go, first and foremost, to my supervisor and teacher, Associate Professor Adriane Rini. She has been a constant source of encouragement and help from beginning to end. Her guidance and notes on the text have improved this thesis beyond recognition.

I must additionally acknowledge Alwyn Bakker, who is indirectly responsible for the Bunny Analogy found in Section II. It was early in the morning, we were both very tired, and I was attempting to explain to him how Forms can have parts; it just would not stick. So, I said: “consider a field of bunnies”. It stuck.