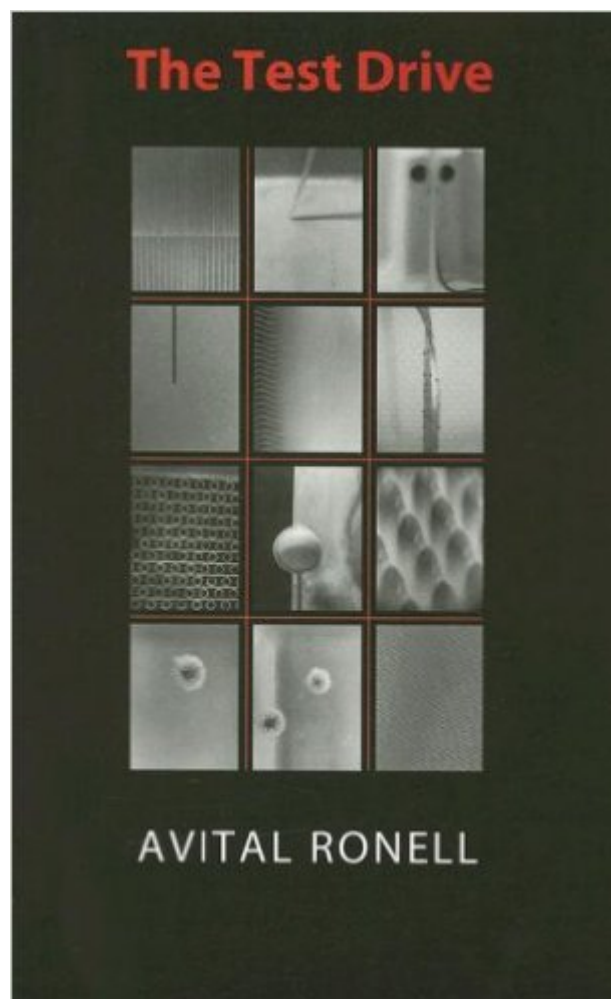


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# The Test Drive



## Synopsis

The Test Drive deals with the war perpetrated by highly determined reactionary forces on science and research. How does the government at once promote and prohibit scientific testing and undercut the importance of experimentation? To what extent is testing at the forefront of theoretical and practical concerns today? Addressed to those who are left stranded by speculative thinking and unhinged by cognitive discourse, The Test Drive points to a toxic residue of uninterrogated questions raised by Nietzsche, Husserl and Derrida. Ranging from the scientific probe to modalities of testing that include the limits of friendship or love, this work explores the crucial operations of an uncontested legitimating machine. Avital Ronell offers a tour-de-force reading of legal, pharmaceutical, artistic, scientific, Zen, and historical grids that depend upon different types of testability, involving among other issues what it means to put oneself to the test.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (1 customer review)

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The twin structure of the institution of test and justice is erected on the foundation of pro-test and injustice. What is at stake in the interminable business of tests, testing, and being tested is the truth -- the incontestable kind; and its various modulations in the mode of the hidden. In The Test Drive Ronell examines the ramification of testing's coming to be as the predominant mode by which the possibility of "I am" is preemptively X'd out in the unclosable space of infinite deferral and waiting-for-verification. Ronell's survey of the topos/terrain of the test drive offers us a field reporter's view of the carnage that covers the landscape of Dasein in the wake of the test drive's ascendancy to the status of business-as-usual on a global scale. "There is a vast area of scientific activity that is

simply not submitted to the rigors of reflection or that aggressively risks sinking into the autism of one or another form of closure. The scene of this repression, which arguably governs our Dasein, is what needs to be addressed." (p.8) Ronell addresses this site by pointing out the forgetting of the bond between 'test' and 'testimony', 'testament', 'contest', and 'protest'. In this book, she re-members them by putting the 'test' back in 'protest', and forming a line of Resistance against the regime of certainty, settled conclusions, definite answers, and final solutions. Ronell sets out to measure, and give measure to, the ramification of the increasing acceleration - now clocking at warp speed - of the test drive's becoming-immanent in the space that is "circumscribed by an endless erasure of what is." Test, contest, protest, and testimony: they are bound by an unseverable linguistic consanguinity at the depth of etymon.

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