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978-0-521-76942-6 - Kant's Observations and Remarks: A Critical Guide

Edited by Susan Meld Shell and Richard Velkley

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[More information](#)Kant's *OBSERVATIONS* and *REMARKS*

Kant's *Observations* of 1764 and *Remarks* of 1764–65 (a set of fragments written in the margins of his copy of the *Observations*) document a crucial turning-point in his life and thought. Both texts reveal the growing importance for him of ethics, anthropology, and politics, but with an important difference. The *Observations* attempts to observe human nature directly. The *Remarks*, by contrast, evinces a revolution in Kant's thinking, largely inspired by Rousseau, who "turned him around" by disclosing to him the idea of a "state of freedom" (modeled on the state of nature) as a touchstone for his thinking. This and related thoughts anticipate such famous later doctrines as the unconditional goodness of good will, the categorical imperative, and the primacy of moral freedom. The essays by leading Kant scholars that are included in the present volume illuminate many and varied topics within these two rich works, including the emerging relations between theory and practice, ethics and anthropology, men and women, philosophy, history, and the "rights of man."

SUSAN MELD SHELL is Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science at Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. She is author of *Kant and the Limits of Autonomy* (2009), *The Embodiment of Reason: Kant on Spirit, Generation, and Community* (1996), and *The Rights of Reason: A Study of Kant's Philosophy and Politics* (1980). She is coeditor (with Robert Faulkner) of *America at Risk: Threats to Liberal Self-Government in an Age of Uncertainty* (2009).

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Observations and Remarks
A Critical Guide

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Kant on the Emotions as part of a research project on imagination, emotion, and value, funded by the Fond national suisse.

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Abbreviations

In most cases Kant's works will be cited in the body of the text according to the volume and page number in *Kants gesammelte Schriften*, Königliche preussische Akademie der Wissenschaften edition (Berlin: W. de Gruyter, 1902–), abbreviated in the list below as *Ak*.

The following abbreviations are used to refer to specific works by Kant.

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| <i>AC</i> | <i>Anthropologie Collins</i> (1772/73), Ak 25.1
<i>Collins' Notes on Kant's Anthropology Lectures</i> |
| <i>AN</i> | <i>Allgemeine Naturgeschichte und Theorie des Himmels</i> (1755), Ak 1
<i>Universal Natural History and Theory of the Heavens</i> |
| <i>AF</i> | <i>Vorlesungen über Anthropologie Friedländer</i> (1775/76), Ak 25.1
<i>Friedländer's Notes on Kant's Anthropology Lectures</i> |
| <i>AP</i> | <i>Anthropologie Parow</i> (1772/73), Ak 25.1
<i>Parow's Notes on Kant's Anthropology Lectures</i> |
| <i>ApH</i> | <i>Anthropologie in pragmatischer Hinsicht</i> (1798), Ak 7
<i>Anthropology from a Pragmatic Point of View</i> |
| <i>Bem</i> | <i>Bemerkungen zu den "Beobachtungen über das Gefühl des Schönen und Erhabenen"</i> (1764–65), Ak 20
<i>Remarks in the "Observations on the Feeling of the Beautiful and Sublime"</i> |
| <i>Beo</i> | <i>Beobachtungen über das Gefühl des Schönen und Erhabenen</i> (1764), Ak 2
<i>Observations on the Feeling of the Beautiful and Sublime</i> |
| <i>Brief</i> | <i>Briefwechsel</i> , Ak 10–13
<i>Kant's Letters</i> |
| <i>Dm</i> | <i>De mundi sensibilis atque intelligibilis forma et principiis</i> (1770), Ak 2
<i>On the Form and Principles of the Sensible and Intelligible World</i> |

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- Do* *Was heisst: Sich im Denken orientieren?* (1786), Ak 8
What Is Orientation in Thinking?
- Em* *Der einzig mögliche Beweisgrund zu einer Demonstration des Dasein Gottes* (1763), Ak 2
The Only Possible Argument in Support of a Demonstration of the Existence of God
- En* *Entwurf und Ankündigung eines Collegii der physischen Geographie* (1757), Ak 2
Plan and Announcement for a Physical Geography Lecture
- G* *Grundlegung der Metaphysik der Sitten* (1785), Ak 4
Groundlaying of the Metaphysics of Morals
- GHo* *Geographie Holstein* (1758/59), Ak 26
Holstein's Notes on Kant's Geography Lectures
- Idea* *Idee zu einer allgemeinen Geschichte in weltbürgerlicher Absicht* (1784), Ak 8
Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Aim
- KpV* *Kritik der praktischen Vernunft* (1788), Ak 5
Critique of Practical Reason
- KrV* *Kritik der reinen Vernunft* (1781, 1787)
Critique of Pure Reason
- References to this work will follow the convention of citing the pages of the first (A) and second (B) editions.
- KU* *Kritik der Urteilskraft* (1790), Ak 5
Critique of the Power of Judgment
- M* *Mutmaßlicher Anfang der Menschengeschichte* (1786), Ak 8
Conjectural Beginning of Human History
- Me* *Menschenkunde* (1781/82), Ak 25.2
Anthropology Lectures
- Men* *Bestimmung des Begriffs einer Menschenrace* (1785), Ak 8
Definition of the Concept of a Human Race
- MH* *Metaphysik Herder* (1762–64), Ak 28.1–2
J. G. Herder's Notes on Kant's Metaphysics Lectures
- MS* *Metaphysik der Sitten* (1797–98), Ak 6
Metaphysics of Morals
- N* *Nachricht von der Einrichtung seiner Vorlesung in dem Winterhalbjahre 1765–1766* (1765), Ak 2
Mr. Immanuel Kant's Announcement of the Programme of His Lectures for the Winter Semester 1765–66
- NB* *Neuer Lehrbegriff der Bewegung und Ruhe* (1758), Ak 2
New Doctrine of Motion and Rest

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- P* *Principiorum primorum cognitionis metaphysicae nova dilucidatio* (1755), Ak 2
New Elucidation of the First Principles of Metaphysical Cognition
- Päd* *Pädagogik* (1803), Ak 9
Lectures on Pedagogy
- PG* *Physische Geographie* (1802), Ak 9
Lectures on Physical Geography
- Ph* *Aufsätze, das Philanthropin betreffend* (1776–77), Ak 2
Essays regarding the Philanthropinum
- PPH* *Praktische Philosophie Herder* (1762–64), Ak 27.1
J. G. Herder's Notes on Kant's Practical Philosophy Lectures
- PPV* *Metaphysik der Sitten Vigilantius* (1793/94), Ak 27.2/1
Vigilantius's Notes on Kant's Metaphysics of Morals Lectures
- PR* *Philosophische Religionslehre nach Pölitz* (1783/84), Ak 28.2/2
Pölitz's Notes on Kant's Lectures on the Philosophical Theology
- R* *Religion innerhalb der Grenzen der bloßen Vernunft* (1793–94), Ak 6
Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason
- Ref* *Reflexionen* (Ak 14–23). References here are to the number of the *Reflection* and then to the volume and the page of the Akademie edition.
- Ri* *Bemerkungen in den "Beobachtungen über das Gefühl des Schönen und Erhabenen"* (1764–65), ed. M. Rischmüller (Felix Meiner, 1991)
Remarks in the "Observations on the Feeling of the Beautiful and Sublime"
- S* *Der Streit der Fakultäten* (1798), Ak 7
The Conflict of the Faculties
- T* *Träume eines Geistersehers, erläutert durch Träume der Metaphysik* (1766), Ak 2
Dreams of a Spirit-Seer, Elucidated by Dreams of Metaphysics
- UD* *Untersuchung über die Deutlichkeit der Grundsätze der natürlichen Theologie und der Moral* (1764), Ak 2
Inquiry concerning the Distinctness of the Principles of Natural Theology and Morality
- VBn* *Versuch den Begriff der negativen Größen in die Weltweisheit einzuführen* (1763), Ak 2
An Attempt to Introduce the Concept of Negative Quantities into Metaphysics
- VBO* *Versuch einiger Betrachtungen über den Optimismus* (1759), Ak 2
An Attempt at Some Reflections on Optimism

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- VK *Versuch über die Krankheiten des Kopfes* (1764), Ak 2
Essay on the Maladies of the Head
- vRM *Von den verschiedenen Racen der Menschen* (1775), Ak 2
Of the Different Races of Men
- ZeF *Zum ewigen Frieden: Ein philosophischer Entwurf* (1795), Ak 8
Toward Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch