

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-82167-4 - The Cambridge Companion to: Hume's Treatise

Edited by Donald C. Ainslie and Annemarie Butler

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
HUME'S TREATISE

Revered for his contributions to empiricism, skepticism, and ethics, David Hume remains one of the most important figures in the history of Western philosophy. His first and broadest work, *A Treatise of Human Nature* (1739–40), comprises three volumes, concerning the understanding, the passions, and morals. He develops a naturalist and empiricist program, illustrating that the mind operates through the association of impressions and ideas. This companion features essays by leading scholars, who evaluate the philosophical content of the arguments in Hume's *Treatise*, while considering their historical context. The authors examine Hume's distinctive views on causation, motivation, free will, moral evaluation, and the origins of justice, which continue to influence present-day philosophical debate. This collection will prove a valuable resource for students and scholars exploring Hume, British empiricism, and modern philosophy.

Donald C. Ainslie is the Principal of University College and Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Toronto. He has published articles in numerous journals, including *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, the *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Hume Studies*, and *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*.

Annemarie Butler is Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Iowa State University and book review editor for *Hume Studies*. Her articles have appeared in the *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, *History of Philosophy Quarterly*, *Journal of Scottish Philosophy*, *Hume Studies*, and *Dialogue*.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-82167-4 - The Cambridge Companion to: Hume's Treatise

Edited by Donald C. Ainslie and Annemarie Butler

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-82167-4 - The Cambridge Companion to: Hume's Treatise

Edited by Donald C. Ainslie and Annemarie Butler

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE COMPANIONS TO PHILOSOPHY

OTHER RECENT VOLUMES IN THIS SERIES OF CAMBRIDGE
COMPANIONS:

- ANCIENT SCEPTICISM *Edited by* RICHARD BETT
 BOETHIUS *Edited by* JOHN MARENBNON
 CARNAP *Edited by* MICHAEL FRIEDMAN *and*
 RICHARD CREATH
 CONSTANT *Edited by* HELENA ROSENBLATT
 DARWIN, 2ND EDITION *Edited by* JONATHAN HODGE *and*
 GREGORY RADICK
 EPICUREANISM *Edited by* JAMES WARREN
 EXISTENTIALISM *Edited by* STEVEN CROWELL
 FREGE *Edited by* TOM RICKETTS *and* MICHAEL POTTER
 GALEN *Edited by* R. J. HANKINSON
 HEGEL AND NINETEENTH-CENTURY PHILOSOPHY
Edited by FREDERICK C. BEISER
 HEIDEGGER'S *BEING AND TIME* *Edited by* MARK
 A. WRATHALL
 HUME, 2ND EDITION *Edited by* DAVID FATE NORTON *and*
 JACQUELINE TAYLOR
 KANT'S *CRITIQUE OF PURE REASON* *Edited by*
 PAUL GUYER
 NOZICK'S *ANARCHY, STATE, AND UTOPIA* *Edited by*
 RALF M. BADER *and* JOHN MEADOWCROFT
 THE 'ORIGIN OF SPECIES' *Edited by* MICHAEL RUSE *and*
 ROBERT J. RICHARDS
 PHILO *Edited by* ADAM KAMESAR
 PIAGET *Edited by* ULRICH MÜLLER, JEREMY
 I. M. CARPENDALE, *and* LESLIE SMITH
 SOCRATES *Edited by* DONALD R. MORRISON
 SPINOZA'S *ETHICS* *Edited by* OLLI KOISTINEN
 LEO STRAUSS *Edited by* STEVEN B. SMITH

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-82167-4 - The Cambridge Companion to: Hume's Treatise

Edited by Donald C. Ainslie and Annemarie Butler

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-82167-4 - The Cambridge Companion to: Hume's Treatise

Edited by Donald C. Ainslie and Annemarie Butler

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

The Cambridge Companion to
HUME'S
TREATISE

Edited by

Donald C. Ainslie

University of Toronto

Annemarie Butler

Iowa State University



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-82167-4 - The Cambridge Companion to: Hume's Treatise
Edited by Donald C. Ainslie and Annemarie Butler
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521529143

© Cambridge University Press 2015

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2015

Printed in the United States of America

A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

The Cambridge companion to Hume's Treatise / [edited by] Donald C. Ainslie, University of Toronto; Annemarie Butler, Iowa State University.
pages cm. (Cambridge companions to philosophy)

1. Hume, David, 1711-1776. Treatise of human nature.
2. Knowledge, Theory of. I. Ainslie, Donald C., editor. II. Butler, Annemarie, editor.

BI489.C36 2015

128-dc23 2014034327

ISBN 978-0-521-82167-4 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-52914-3 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party Internet Web sites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such Web sites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-82167-4 - The Cambridge Companion to: Hume's Treatise

Edited by Donald C. Ainslie and Annemarie Butler

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents

| | | |
|---|---|---------|
| | <i>List of Contributors</i> | page ix |
| | <i>Preface</i> | xi |
| | <i>Method of Citation</i> | xiii |
| | <i>List of Abbreviations</i> | xv |
| 1 | Hume's Early Biography and <i>A Treatise of Human Nature</i> ANNEMARIE BUTLER | 1 |
| 2 | From Impressions to Justice and the Virtues: The Structure of Hume's <i>Treatise</i> AMÉLIE OKSENBERG RORTY | 14 |
| 3 | The Ideas of Space and Time and Spatial and Temporal Ideas in <i>Treatise</i> 1.2 LORNE FALKENSTEIN | 31 |
| 4 | Hume's Theory of Causation: Inference, Judgment, and the Causal Sense DON GARRETT | 69 |
| 5 | Scepticism with Regard to Reason DAVID OWEN | 101 |
| 6 | Hume on Scepticism and the Senses KENNETH P. WINKLER | 135 |
| 7 | The Problem of Believing in Yourself: Hume's Doubts about Personal Identity ANNEMARIE BUTLER | 165 |
| 8 | Sympathy, Self, and Others JACQUELINE TAYLOR | 188 |
| 9 | The Indirect Passions, Myself, and Others TERENCE PENELHUM | 206 |

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-82167-4 - The Cambridge Companion to: Hume's Treatise

Edited by Donald C. Ainslie and Annemarie Butler

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

| | | |
|------|---|-----|
| viii | Contents | |
| 10 | "Hume's Lengthy Digression": Free Will in the <i>Treatise</i> PAUL RUSSELL | 230 |
| 11 | Hume on Reason and Passion NICHOLAS L. STURGEON | 252 |
| 12 | Hume and Moral Motivation DONALD C. AINSLIE | 283 |
| 13 | Hume's Justice TITO MAGRI | 301 |
| 14 | What's So "Natural" about Hume's Natural Virtues? KATE ABRAMSON | 333 |
| | <i>Bibliography</i> | 369 |
| | <i>Index of Passages Cited</i> | 383 |
| | <i>Index of Names and Subjects</i> | 390 |

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-82167-4 - The Cambridge Companion to: Hume's Treatise

Edited by Donald C. Ainslie and Annemarie Butler

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contributors

KATE ABRAMSON is an Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy at Indiana University. Her work focuses principally on eighteenth-century philosophy (especially Hume and Smith) and contemporary ethics. Her work has been supported by a fellowship from the Rockefeller Center for Human Values at Princeton and a grant from the ACLS.

DONALD C. AINSLIE is an Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy and the Principal of University College at the University of Toronto. His primary research focus is early modern philosophy, and he has published extensively on the works of David Hume. He has a secondary research project in bioethics.

ANNEMARIE BUTLER is an Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Iowa State University. She is book review editor of *Hume Studies*. Her publications focus on Part 4 of Book 1 of Hume's *Treatise* and Hume's first *Enquiry*.

LORNE FALKENSTEIN holds the rank of Professor in the Department of Philosophy at Western University in London, Canada. His work is principally focused on spatial perception and mental representation in eighteenth-century philosophy.

DON GARRETT is Professor and Chair of the Department of Philosophy at New York University. He has taught previously at Harvard University, the University of Utah, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was Kenan Distinguished Professor for Teaching Excellence. He is the author of *Cognition and Commitment in Hume's Philosophy* (1997) and the forthcoming *Hume*. In addition, he is the editor of *The Cambridge Companion to Spinoza* and has served as editor of *Hume Studies* and as North American editor of the *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*.

TITO MAGRI is Professor of Philosophy at Sapienza University, Rome. He has done historical and theoretical research in political philosophy, in the philosophy of emotions, and in ethics and rational choice. He is currently working on Hume's theory of imagination and on action theory.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-82167-4 - The Cambridge Companion to: Hume's Treatise

Edited by Donald C. Ainslie and Annemarie Butler

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x List of Contributors

DAVID OWEN teaches in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Arizona. He has edited several volumes on the history of early modern philosophy and is the author of *Hume's Reason* (1999) as well as several articles on Locke and Hume.

TERENCE PENELHUM is Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies at the University of Calgary, Canada, where he was formerly Head of the Department of Philosophy, Dean of Arts and Science, and Director of the Calgary Institute for the Humanities. In 1988 he was awarded the Canada Council Molson Prize in the Humanities. His books include *Themes in Hume* (2000) and *God and Skepticism* (1983).

AMÉLIE OKSENBERG RORTY is a Visiting Professor at Tufts University and a Lecturer at the Harvard Medical School. Author of *Mind in Action* (1991) and numerous articles on the history of moral psychology, she has edited *Explaining Emotions* (1976) and *Philosophers on Education* (1988) as well as volumes on Descartes's *Meditations* and on Aristotle's *Ethics*, his *Rhetoric*, and his *Poetics*. She is currently working on a book, *On the Other Hand: The Ethics of Ambivalence*.

PAUL RUSSELL is Professor in Philosophy at the University of British Columbia. His publications include *Freedom and Moral Sentiment: Hume's Way of Naturalizing Responsibility* (1995) and *The Riddle of Hume's Treatise: Skepticism, Naturalism, and Irreligion* (2008). He is also the editor of *The Oxford Handbook of David Hume* (forthcoming).

NICHOLAS L. STURGEON is Susan Linn Sage Professor of Philosophy, emeritus, at Cornell University. He has joined in contemporary debates about metaethics, while also writing about Hume and other British moral philosophers of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

JACQUELINE TAYLOR is Professor of Philosophy at the University of San Francisco. She has published numerous articles on David Hume as well as articles on moral psychology and metaethics.

KENNETH P. WINKLER is Professor of Philosophy at Yale University. His books include *Berkeley: An Interpretation* (1989) and an abridgment, with introduction and notes, of Locke's *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (1996). A collection of his essays, *Matters of Reason: Essays in Early Modern British Philosophy*, is forthcoming. From 2011 to 2012 he was the Sir Isaiah Berlin Visiting Professor in the History of Ideas at Oxford University, where he delivered a series of lectures on philosophical idealism in America. From 2000 to 2005 he was editor, with Elizabeth Radcliffe, of the journal *Hume Studies*.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-82167-4 - The Cambridge Companion to: Hume's Treatise

Edited by Donald C. Ainslie and Annemarie Butler

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Preface

The idea for this project was conceived in the late 1990s, and most of the contributors joined it with the expectation that it would appear in the early 2000s. The volume's delayed appearance was the result, in part, of the normal problems associated with edited volumes: a few recalcitrant contributors, last-minute withdrawals, and the like. But my personal shortcomings, as I tried to balance a demanding administrative role with my research responsibilities, also contributed significantly. I owe many thanks to Annemarie Butler for joining the project as a coeditor; she did the heavy lifting required to bring the project to completion. I also would like to thank the other contributors for their patience and apologize to them for the long gestation of the volume.

Donald C. Ainslie

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-82167-4 - The Cambridge Companion to: Hume's Treatise

Edited by Donald C. Ainslie and Annemarie Butler

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-82167-4 - The Cambridge Companion to: Hume's Treatise

Edited by Donald C. Ainslie and Annemarie Butler

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Method of Citation

References to Hume's texts are normally given parenthetically, but on some occasions these references may be placed in a note. Parenthetical references follow the form of these examples:

A Treatise of Human Nature: T, followed by Book, Part, Section, and paragraph numbers of the Clarendon Edition (see T in the list of abbreviations); after this, SBN is followed by page number(s) from the Selby-Bigge and Nidditch edition. References to this work will produce, for example, the form (T 1.4.7.14, SBN 272–73).

Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion: DNR, followed by the Part and page numbers of the Norman Kemp Smith edition. References to this work will produce, for example, the form (DNR 1, 137).

An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding: EHU, followed by the Section and paragraph numbers of the Clarendon Edition (see EHU in the list of abbreviations); after this, SBN, is followed by page number(s) from the Selby-Bigge and Nidditch edition. References to this work will produce, for example, the form (EHU 1.5, SBN 8).

An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals: EPM, followed by the Section and paragraph numbers in the Clarendon Edition (see EPM in the list of abbreviations); after this, SBN, is followed by page number(s) from the Selby-Bigge and Nidditch edition. References to this work will produce, for example, the form (EPM 7.16, SBN 256).

Essays: E-, followed first by an abbreviation of the title of the particular essay cited (for these abbreviations see E in the list of abbreviations) and then by the relevant page number(s) of the edition of Hume's *Essays Moral, Political, and Literary* described at E, to produce, for example, the form (E-Sc 172).

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-82167-4 - The Cambridge Companion to: Hume's Treatise

Edited by Donald C. Ainslie and Annemarie Butler

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-82167-4 - The Cambridge Companion to: Hume's Treatise

Edited by Donald C. Ainslie and Annemarie Butler

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Abbreviations

- Abs. *An Abstract of a Book Lately Published; Entituled A Treatise of Human Nature, &c. Wherein the Chief Argument of that Book is farther Illustrated and Explained* (first published 1740). Cited from the Clarendon Edition of *A Treatise of Human Nature*, edited by David Fate Norton and Mary J. Norton (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2007), and the 2nd edition of *A Treatise of Human Nature*, edited by L. A. Selby-Bigge, revised by P. H. Nidditch (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1978).
- D *A Dialogue* (first published 1751), cited from the Clarendon Edition of *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*, edited by Tom L. Beauchamp (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1998), and the 3rd edition of *Enquiries Concerning Human Understanding and Concerning the Principles of Morals*, edited by L. A. Selby-Bigge with notes by P. H. Nidditch (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1975).
- DNR *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion* (first published 1779), edited by Norman Kemp Smith (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1935). Subsequent editions are uniformly paginated.
- DP *Dissertation on the Passions* (first published 1757), cited from *A Dissertation on the Passions and the Natural History of Religion*, edited by Tom L. Beauchamp (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2007).
- E *Essays Moral, Political, and Literary*, edited by Eugene F. Miller (Indianapolis: Liberty Classics, rev. ed., 1987). Abbreviations of the individual essays cited in this volume, with date of the first publication, follow this entry.
- E-DM Of the Dignity or Meanness of Human Nature (1741; "or Meanness" added in 1770)
- E-DT Of the Delicacy of Taste and Passion (1741)
- E-MSL Of the Middle Station of Life (1742)
- E-OC Of the Original Contract (1748)
- E-PO Of Passive Obedience (1748)

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-82167-4 - The Cambridge Companion to: Hume's Treatise

Edited by Donald C. Ainslie and Annemarie Butler

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xvi List of Abbreviations

- E-RA Of Refinement in the Arts (1752; title changed from "Of Luxury" in 1760)
- E-Sc The Sceptic (1742)
- E-SE Of Superstition and Enthusiasm (1741)
- E-SR Of Simplicity and Refinement in Writing (1742)
- E-St The Stoic (1742)
- E-ST Of the Standard of Taste (1757)
- EHU *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* (first published 1748 as *Philosophical Essays Concerning Human Understanding*). All quotations and references are to the Clarendon Edition, edited by Tom L. Beauchamp (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2000), and the 3rd edition of *Enquiries Concerning Human Understanding and Concerning the Principles of Morals*, edited by L. A. Selby-Bigge with notes by P. H. Nidditch (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1975).
- EPM *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals* (first published 1751). All quotations and references are to the Clarendon Edition, edited by Tom L. Beauchamp (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1998), and the 3rd edition of *Enquiries Concerning Human Understanding and Concerning the Principles of Morals*, edited by L. A. Selby-Bigge with notes by P. H. Nidditch (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1975).
- HL *The Letters of David Hume*, edited by J. Y. T. Greig, 2 vols. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1932).
- NHL *New Letters of David Hume*, edited by Raymond Klibanksy and Ernest C. Mossner (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1954).
- T *A Treatise of Human Nature* (first published 1739–40). All quotations and references are to the Clarendon Edition, edited by David Fate Norton and Mary J. Norton (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2007), and the 2nd edition of *A Treatise of Human Nature*, edited by L. A. Selby-Bigge, revised by P. H. Nidditch (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1978).