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0521859581 - Defending Einstein: Hans Reichenbach's Writings on Space, Time, and Motion

Edited by Steven Gimbel and Anke Walz

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Defending Einstein

Hans Reichenbach, a philosopher of science who was one of five students in Einstein's first seminar on the general theory of relativity, became Einstein's bulldog, defending the theory against criticism from philosophers, physicists, and popular commentators. This book chronicles the development of Reichenbach's reconstruction of Einstein's theory in a way that clearly sets out all of its philosophical commitments and physical predictions as well as the battles that Reichenbach fought on its behalf, in both the academic and popular press. The essays include reviews and responses to philosophical colleagues, such as Moritz Schlick and Hugo Dingler; polemical discussions with the physicists Max Born and D. C. Miller; and popular articles meant to clarify aspects of Einstein's theories and set out their philosophical ramifications for the layperson. This book is a window into the development of scientific philosophy and the role of the philosopher at a time when physics and philosophy were both undergoing revolutionary changes in content and method.

Steven Gimbel is associate professor of philosophy at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania, where he was named Luther W. and Bernice L. Thompson Distinguished Teacher in 2005. He has contributed to *Philosophy of Science*, *British Journal of Philosophy of Science*, and *Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics*.

Anke Walz is assistant professor of mathematics at Kutztown University. Her work on the bellows conjecture relating to flexible polyhedrals with R. Connely and I. Sabitov has appeared in *Beiträge zur Algebra und Geometrie* and has received coverage in *Science* and *Scientific American*.

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