The Challenge of Rousseau

Written by prominent scholars of Jean-Jacques Rousseau’s philosophy, this collection celebrates the 300th anniversary of Rousseau’s birth and the 250th anniversary of the publication of *Emile*. The depth and systematic character of Rousseau’s thought were recognized almost immediately by thinkers such as Kant and Hegel, yet debate continues over the degree to which Rousseau’s legacy is the result of poetic, literary, or rhetorical genius, rather than of philosophic rigor or profundity. The authors focus on Rousseau’s genuine yet undervalued stature as a philosopher. This collection includes essays that develop some of the complex problems Rousseau treated so radically and profoundly, as well as essays on the vigorous debates he engaged in with thoughtful contemporaries and predecessors.


The Challenge of Rousseau

Edited by

EVE GRACE
Colorado College

CHRISTOPHER KELLY
Boston College
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List of Contributors

Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent
Département de Philosophie, Université Paris-X, Nanterre

Bruno Bernardi
Collège International de Philosophie, Paris

Victor Gourevitch
Department of Philosophy, Wesleyan University (retired)

Eve Grace
Political Science Department, Colorado College

Ryan Patrick Hanley
Department of Political Science, Marquette University

Pamela K. Jensen
Political Science Department, Kenyon College

Christopher Kelly
Department of Political Science, Boston College

Matthew W. Maguire
Departments of History and of Catholic Studies, DePaul University

Pierre Manent
École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales and the Centre de recherches sociologiques et politiques Raymond Aron

Jonathan Marks
Department of Politics, Ursinus College

Terence Marshall
Sciences Juridiques et Politiques, Université Paris-X, Nanterre (retired)
List of Contributors

John T. Scott
Department of Political Science, University of California, Davis

Susan Meld Shell
Department of Political Science, Boston College

Leo Strauss
New School of Social Research at the time of writing; deceased 1973

Richard Velkley
Department of Philosophy, Tulane University
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List of Abbreviations


DPW  Discourses and Other Early Political Writings. Edited by Victor Gourevitch (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997).

