

KANT'S EMPIRICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Throughout his life, Kant was concerned with questions about empirical psychology. He aimed to develop an empirical account of human beings, and his lectures and writings on the topic are recognizable today as properly 'psychological' treatments of human thought and behavior. In this book, Patrick R. Frierson uses close analysis of relevant texts, including unpublished lectures and notes, to study Kant's account. He shows in detail how Kant explains human action, choice, and thought in empirical terms, and how a better understanding of Kant's psychology can shed light on major concepts in his philosophy, including the moral law, moral responsibility, weakness of will, and cognitive error. Frierson also applies Kant's accounts of mental illness to contemporary philosophical issues. His book will interest students and scholars of Kant, the history of psychology, philosophy of psychology, and philosophy of action.

PATRICK R. FRIERSON is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Whitman College. He is the author of *Freedom and Anthropology in Kant's Moral Philosophy* (Cambridge, 2003) and *Kant's Questions: What is the Human Being?* (2013), and has published numerous articles in edited volumes and journals including *Philosophers' Imprint* and *Journal of the History of Philosophy*.





KANT'S EMPIRICAL PSYCHOLOGY

PATRICK R. FRIERSON

Whitman College





CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

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/9781107032651

© Patrick R. Frierson, 2014

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 2014

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data Frierson, Patrick R., 1974– Kant's empirical psychology / Patrick Frierson.

pages cm Includes bibliographical references and index. ISBN 978-1-107-03265-1 (hardback)

Psychology and philosophy – Germany – History – 19th century.

The state of th

2. Empiricism – Psychological aspects. 3. Kant, Immanuel, 1724–1804. I. Title.

BF41.F755 2014
150.92–dc23
2014011844

ISBN 978-1-107-03265-1 Hardback

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



For Katheryn "a threefold cord is not quickly broken"





Contents

Acknowledgments		<i>page</i> viii
Rej	ferences to Kant's works	X
I	Introduction: the nature and possibility of empirical psychology	I
2	Kant's empirical account of human action	52
3	Kant's empirical account of human cognition	86
4	Kant's empirical account of moral motivation: respect for the moral law	116
5	Kant's empirical markers for moral responsibility	167
6	Defects of cognition: prejudice and mental disorder	189
7	Defects of volition: affects, passions, and weakness of will	215
8	Conclusion	259
	pendix: charts and tables describing Kant's empirical psychology bliography dex	263 267 275

vii



Acknowledgments

I teach at Whitman College, an excellent liberal arts and sciences college that, long ago, recognized that small college faculties spend most of their time teaching their students, and so they need generous sabbaticals if they are going to make serious headway on research. The present project has benefitted from two of these sabbaticals with related material support, for which I am very grateful. In addition, my students at Whitman, particularly those in my Kant seminars, have been a constant source of stimulation and encouragement as I thought through and refined my views on these matters.

This book is also the fruit of two grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, a Summer Stipend in 2003 that first got me writing about Kant's empirical psychology, and a Fellowship in 2008–9 that allowed me not only to write a separate book (*Kant's Questions: What is the Human Being?*) but that gave me space to make significant progress on this book as well.

Several chapters are revisions of previously published work. I particularly thank *Philosophers' Imprint* for creating an open-access journal in which authors retain copyright in their work and for providing a venue in which I could publish my first paper on this topic ("Kant's Empirical Account of Human Action," *Philosophers' Imprint* 5.7 (December 2005), present here in revised form in Chapter 2). I also thank G. E. Berrios and the folks at *History of Psychiatry* for first encouraging me to make a detailed study of Kant's theory of mental disorder (originally published as "Kant on Mental Disorder," *History of Psychiatry* 20 (2009): 267–310, now revised and incorporated into Chapters 6 and 7), and Alix Cohen and *Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science* for prodding me to write a version of what has become Chapter 5 of the present work (originally published as "Empirical Psychology, Common Sense, and Kant's Empirical Markers for Moral Responsibility," *Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science* 39 (2008): 473–82). Portions of this book have been presented,

viii



Acknowledgments

ix

in various forms, at the Tenth World Kant Congress in São Paulo, the Pacific Northwest Study Group in Early Modern Philosophy, the Pacific Study Group of the North American Kant Society, and at a special discussion of Kant's philosophy organized by Alix Cohen at the University of Cambridge. In every case, the audiences at those meetings modeled the kind of spirited and constructive engagement that makes philosophy as a social endeavor productive and enjoyable, and they contributed to the development of the ideas in this book.

Several individuals have provided focused comments on various parts of this work, among whom I particularly thank the two truly excellent anonymous reviewers for Cambridge University Press, whose substantive and insightful comments made this a *much* better book, and Alix Cohen, who helped me avoid at least the most egregious failures of charity in interpreting her own work. I also thank Thomas Sturm, who generously shared an unpublished English translation of his *Kant und die Wissenschaften vom Menschen*, without which I would not have been able to engage as fully with that important work.

Three individuals are primarily responsible for encouraging me in this project. Karl Ameriks, who quickly passed from being an excellent doctoral advisor to an excellent professional mentor, set my sights on the project and encouraged me throughout. Hilary Gaskin at Cambridge University Press helped me from start to finish, refining my initial plan for the work and offering significant guidance throughout the entire process leading to publication. And Katheryn Frierson has unflaggingly exhorted me to see the importance of work that often seemed arcane and merely academic. Along with my children Cyrus, Phoebe, and Zechariah, Katheryn not only bore with me as I wrote the book but has also consistently made my life a genuine joy. I dedicate this book to her.



References to Kant's works

Throughout this book, Kant's works are cited by volume and page number according to the German Academy Edition of Kant's Works. The pagination from that edition is given in the margins of many English translations, including all of the translations published by Cambridge University Press. The *Critique of Pure Reason* is cited by the page numbers in the first (A) edition and/or second (B) edition of that work. For aid in identifying the relevant texts, I include below a list of all of the texts cited in this work, arranged by Academy Edition pagination. (Where the relevant volume is not obvious, I have indicated in which volume of the Cambridge Edition of the Works of Immanuel Kant the English translation can be found.)

Volumes 1-9: Published works

2:259-71	"Essay on the Maladies of the Head" (in Anthropology,
	History, and Education)
2:305-15	Announcement for the Program of Lectures for the Winter
	Semester 1765–1766 (in <i>Theoretical Philosophy 1755–1770</i>)
3:2-552	Critique of Pure Reason (B edition)
4:5-252	Critique of Pure Reason (A edition)
4:387-463	Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals (in Practical
	Philosophy)
4:467-565	Metaphysical Foundations of Natural Science (in Theoretical
	Philosophy after 1781)
5:3–163	Critique of Practical Reason (in Practical Philosophy)
5:167-485	Critique of the Power of Judgment
6:3-202	Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason
6:205-493	The Metaphysics of Morals (in Practical Philosophy)
7:5–116	Conflict of the Faculties (in Religion and Rational Theology)



	References to Kant's works xi
7:119–333	Anthropology from a Pragmatic Point of View (Handschrift
8:35-42	(H) additions in 7:393–413) "What is Enlightenment?" (in <i>Practical Philosophy</i>)
8:109–23	"Conjectural Beginning of Human History" (in Anthropology, History, and Education)
8:159–84	"On the Use of Teleological Principles in Philosophy" (in Anthropology, History, and Education)
8:187–251	On a Discovery, according to which any new Critique of Pure Reason is made Superfluous through an Older (Against Eberhard) (in Theoretical Philosophy after 1781)
8:255–71	"On the miscarriage of all philosophical trials in the- odicy" (in <i>Religion and Rational Theology</i>)
8:275–313	"On the common saying: That may be correct in theory, but it is of no use in practice" (in <i>Practical Philosophy</i>)
8:343-86	Towards Perpetual Peace (in Practical Philosophy)
9:1–150	Jäsche Logic
9:439-99	On Pedagogy (in Anthropology, History, and Education)
	Volumes 10–13: Correspondence
12:31–35	From Soemmerring's On the Origin of the Soul (in Anthropology, History, and Education)
	Volumes 14–23: Handwritten notes
15:5–899	On Anthropology (some collected in <i>Notes and Fragments</i>)
15:939–953	"Philosopher's Medicine of the Body" (in <i>Anthropology, History, and Education</i>)
16:1-875	On Logic (some collected in Notes and Fragments)
17:227–18:725	On Metaphysics (some collected in <i>Notes and Fragments</i>)
19:92–317	On Moral Philosophy (some collected in <i>Notes and Fragments</i>)
20:3–192	Remarks in Observations on the Feeling of the Beautiful and Sublime (some collected in Notes and Fragments)
	Volumes 24–29: Lectures
24:3-952	Logic



xii	References to Kant's works
25:7–1531	Anthropology
27:3-732	Ethics
28:5-838	Metaphysics
28:988–1529	Rational Theology (in Religion and Rational Theology)
29:5-45	Philosophical Encyclopedia (not currently available in
	English)
29:597-642	Ethics
29:747–1040	Metaphysics