THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
GERMAN IDEALISM

This updated Companion offers a comprehensive, penetrating, and informative guide to what is regarded as the classical period of German philosophy. Kant, Fichte, Hegel, and Schelling are all discussed in detail, along with contemporaries such as Hölderlin, Novalis, and Schopenhauer, whose influence was considerable but whose work is less well known in the English-speaking world. Leading scholars trace and explore the unifying themes of German Idealism and discuss its relationship to Romanticism, the Enlightenment, and the culture of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Europe. The volume offers an updated bibliography and includes three entirely new chapters, which address aesthetic reflection and human nature, the chemical revolution after Kant, and organism and system in German Idealism. The result is an illuminating overview of a rich and complex philosophical movement, and will appeal to a wide range of readers interested in philosophy, literature, theology, German studies, and the history of ideas.

Karl Ameriks is McMahon-Hank Professor of Philosophy (Emeritus) at the University of Notre Dame. He has published numerous books on Kant, including Kant’s Theory of Mind (1982), Kant and the Fate of Autonomy (Cambridge University Press, 2000), and Kant’s Elliptical Path (2012), as well as other edited and translated volumes. He has also served as co-editor of the Cambridge Texts in the History of Philosophy series.
OTHER VOLUMES IN THE SERIES OF CAMBRIDGE COMPANIONS

ABELARD  Edited by JEFFREY E. BROWER and KEVIN GUILFOY
ADORNO  Edited by THOMAS HUHN
ANCIENT ETHICS  Edited by CHRISTOPHER BOBONICH
ANCIENT SCIENTIFIC REALISM  Edited by RICHARD BETT
ANSELM  Edited by BRIAN DAVIES and BRIAN LEFTOW
AQUINAS  Edited by NORMAN KRETZMANN and ELEONORE STUMP
ARABIC PHILOSOPHY  Edited by PETER ADAMSON and RICHARD C. TAYLOR
HANNAH ARENDT  Edited by DANA VILLA
ARISTOTLE  Edited by JONATHAN BARNES
ARISTOTLE’S POLITICS  Edited by MARGUERITE DESLAURIERS and PAUL Destreé
ATHEISM  Edited by MICHAEL MARTIN
AUGUSTINE  2nd edition Edited by DAVID MECONI and ELEONORE STUMP
BACON  Edited by MARKKU PELTONEN
BERKELEY  Edited by KENNETH P. WINKLER
BOETHIUS  Edited by JOHN MARENBON
BRENTANO  Edited by DALE JACQUETTE
CARNAP  Edited by MICHAEL FRIEDMAN and RICHARD CREATH
THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO  Edited by TERRELL CARVER and JAMES FARR
CONSTANT  Edited by HELENA ROSENBLATT
CRITICAL THEORY  Edited by FRED RUSH
DARWIN  2nd edition Edited by JONATHAN HODGE and GREGORY RADICK
SIMONE DE BEAUXOIR  Edited by CLAUDIA CARD
DELEUZE  Edited by DANIEL W. SMITH and HENRY SOMERS-HALL
DESCARTES  Edited by JOHN COTTINGHAM
DESCARTES’ MEDITATIONS  Edited by DAVID CUNNING
DEWEY  Edited by MOLLY COCHRAN
DUNS SCOTUS  Edited by THOMAS WILLIAMS
EARLY GREEK PHILOSOPHY  Edited by A. A. LONG
(Continued after the index)
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List of Contributors</th>
<th>page vii</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chronology of German Idealism</td>
<td>xii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map of Jena</td>
<td>xiv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction: Interpreting German Idealism</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karl Ameriks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 The Enlightenment and Idealism</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frederick Beiser</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Absolute Idealism and the Rejection of Kantian Dualism</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Guyer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Kant’s Practical Philosophy</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allen W. Wood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Aesthetic Reflection and Human Nature: The Kantian Thread in Early German Romanticism</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Kneller</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 The Aesthetic Holism of Hamann, Herder, and Schiller</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel O. Dahlstrom</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 All or Nothing: Systematicity and Nihilism in Jacobi, Reinhold, and Maimon</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Franks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 The Early Philosophy of Fichte and Schelling</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rolf-Peter Horstmann</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Philosophy and the Chemical Revolution after Kant</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michela Massimi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
vi CONTENTS

9 Hölderlin and Novalis
   Charles Larmore 205

10 Hegel's Phenomenology and Logic: An Overview
   Terry Pinkard 227

11 Hegel's Practical Philosophy: The Realization of Freedom
   Robert Pippin 248

12 Organism and System in German Idealism
   Rachel Zuckert 271

13 German Realism: The Self-Limitation of Idealist
   Thinking in Fichte, Schelling, and Schopenhauer
   Günter Zöller 292

14 Politics and the New Mythology: The Turn to Late
   Romanticism
   Dieter Sturma 314

15 German Idealism and the Arts
   Andrew Bowie 336

16 The Legacy of Idealism in the Philosophy of Feuerbach,
   Marx, and Kierkegaard
   Karl Ameriks 358

   Bibliography 386
   Index 407
Contributors

Karl Ameriks is McMahon-Hank Professor of Philosophy (Emeritus) at the University of Notre Dame. In addition to editing several volumes concerned with German Idealism, he has written Kant’s Theory of Mind (2nd ed., 2000), Kant and the Fate of Autonomy: Problems in the Appropriation of the Critical Philosophy (Cambridge University Press, 2000), Interpreting Kant’s Critiques (2003), Kant and the Historical Turn: Philosophy as Critical Interpretation (2006), and Kant’s Elliptical Path (2012).


Daniel O. Dahlstrom is John R. Silber Professor of Philosophy at Boston University. He has co-edited The Emergence of German Idealism (1999) and Philosophy of Mind and Phenomenology (2015) and edited Interpreting Heidegger (2011). He has translated Schiller: Essays (1993),

Paul Franks is Professor of Philosophy at Yale University. He is the author of All or Nothing: Systematicity, Skepticism, and Transcendental Arguments (2005), and, with Michael L. Morgan, the translator of Franz Rosenzweig: Theological and Philosophical Writings (2000). He has written numerous essays on German Idealism and on Jewish philosophy, including contributions to The Cambridge Companion to Hegel and Nineteenth Century (2008), The Cambridge Companion to Modern Jewish Philosophy (2007), and The Cambridge Companion to Fichte (2017).

Paul Guyer is Jonathan Nelson Professor of Humanities and Philosophy at Brown University. His monographs on Kant are Kant and the Claims of Taste (1979/1997), Kant and the Claims of Knowledge (1987), Kant (2006/2014), and Kant’s Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals: A Reader’s Guide (2007). He has published six volumes of his papers on Kant, most recently Virtues of Freedom (2016). He is the editor of The Cambridge Companion to Kant (1992), The Cambridge Companion to Kant and Modern Philosophy (2006), and The Cambridge Companion to Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason (2010), as well as of a number other anthologies on Kant. He is General Co-Editor of The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Immanuel Kant, for which he co-translated the Critique of Pure Reason (1998), the Critique of the Power of Judgment (2000), and Kant’s Notes and Fragments (2005). He is also the author of A History of Modern Aesthetics in three volumes (2014), volume 2 of which has extensive coverage of the aesthetics of German Idealism.

Rolf-Peter Horstmann is Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at the Humboldt University in Berlin. He is author of Ontologie und Relationen: Hegel, Bradley, Russell und die Kontroverse über interne und externe Beziehungen (1984), Die Grenzen der Vernunft: eine Untersuchung zu Zielen und Motivendes Deutschen Idealismus (3rd ed., 2004), and Bausteine Kritischer Philosophie (1997). He co-authored (with D. Emundts) G.W.F. Hegel. Eine Einführung (2002). He has co-edited Hegel, Jenaer Systementwürfe II and III. He has also co-edited collections of works
on Kant, transcendental arguments, Rousseau, aesthetics, Hegel, and German Idealism and has served as editor for a translation of Nietzsche’s Beyond Good and Evil (2002).

Jane Kneller is Professor of Philosophy Emerita at Colorado State University and Visiting Scholar at Linfield College, Oregon. She has co-translated Klaus Reich, The Completeness of Kant’s Table of Judgments (1992) and co-edited (with Sidney Axinn) Autonomy and Community: Readings in Contemporary Kantian Social Theory (1998). She is the author of Kant and the Power of Imagination (2007) and editor and translator of Novalis: Fichte Studies (2003) as well as numerous articles on Kant’s aesthetic theory and the early German romantics.


Michela Massimi is Professor of Philosophy of Science at the University of Edinburgh. She was the principal investigator on the Leverhulme Trust-Funded International Network ‘Kant and the Laws of Nature’ (2012–2015). She has edited Kant and Philosophy of Science Today (2008) and co-edited Kant and the Laws of Nature (2017). She has written several articles on Kant’s philosophy of natural science, its Newtonian roots, and legacy for contemporary debates in philosophy of science.


Robert Pippin is Evelyn Stefansson Nef Distinguished Service Professor of Philosophy and Chair of the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago. His books include Kant’s Theory of Form (1982), Hegel’s Idealism: The Satisfactions of Self-Consciousness (1989),
x LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Modernism as a Philosophical Problem (2nd ed., 1999), Idealism as Modernism: Hegelian Variations (1997), The Persistence of Subjectivity: The Kantian Aftermath (2005), Hegel’s Practical Philosophy: Rational Agency as Ethical Life (2008), After the Beautiful: Hegel and the Philosophy of Pictorial Modernism (2013), and Interanimations: Receiving Modern German Philosophy (2015), as well as several works on Nietzsche and in diverse areas of aesthetics.

Dieter Sturma is Professor of Philosophy at Bonn University and Director of several institutes in Germany concerning ethics and science. He is the author of Kant über Selbstbewusstsein: zum Zusammenhang von Erkenntniskritik und Theorie des Selbstbewusstseins (1985), Philosophie der Person: die Selbstverhältnisse von Subjektivität und Moralität (1997), Jean-Jacques Rousseau (2000), and Philosophie des Geistes (2011). He co-edited The Modern Subject: Conceptions of the Self in Classical German Philosophy (1995) and has written numerous essays on German Idealism and on topics in contemporary systematic philosophy.

Allen W. Wood is Ruth Norman Halls Professor at Indiana University and Ward W. and Priscilla B. Woods Professor Emeritus at Stanford University. His dozen or so books include Kant’s Ethical Thought (1999), Fichte’s Ethical Thought (2016), Hegel’s Ethical Thought (1990), Karl Marx (1981, 2nd expanded ed., 2004), Kant (2004), and The Free Development of Each (2014). He is co-general editor with Paul Guyer of the Cambridge Edition of the Writings of Immanuel Kant, for which he has edited, translated, or otherwise contributed to six volumes.

Günter Zöller is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Munich. He is the author of Theoretische Gegenstandsbeziehung bei Kant (1984), Fichte’s Transcendental Philosophy (1998), Critical Spirit (2012), Fichte lesen (2013), and Res Publica (2015). He has edited or co-edited Minds, Ideas, and Objects (1993); Figuring the Self (1997); Schopenhauer, Prize Essay On the Freedom of the Will (1999); Kant, Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics (2004); Fichte, The System of Ethics (2005); Fichte und die Aufklärung (2005); Fichtes praktische Philosophie (2006); Kant, History, Anthropology, and Education (2007); Übertragene Anfänge (2010); Der Staat als Mittel zum Zweck (2011); and The Cambridge Companion to Fichte (2017).
Rachel Zuckert is Associate Professor of Philosophy and German at Northwestern University. She is the author of *Kant on Beauty and Biology: An Interpretation of the Critique of Judgment* (2007), as well as many essays on Kant and other figures in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century philosophy. She is the co-editor of *Hegel on Philosophy in History* (2017).
Chronology of German Idealism

1724–1804 Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason* 1781
1729–1781 Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, *Nathan the Wise* 1779
1729–1786 Moses Mendelssohn, *Jerusalem* 1783
1730–1788 Johann Georg Hamann, *Aesthetica in nuce* 1762
1733–1813 Christoph Martin Wieland, *Teutscher Merkur* (ed.) 1773–89
1741–1801 Johann Caspar Lavater, *Essay on Physiognomy* 1775–8
1743–1819 Friedrich Heinrich Jacobi, *On the Doctrine of Spinoza* 1785
1749–1832 Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Wilhelm Meister’s Apprenticeship* 1795–6
1762–1814 Johann Gottlieb Fichte, *Science of Knowledge* *[Wissenschaftslehre]* 1794
1763–1809 Caroline Schlegel [Schelling], *Briefe aus der Frühromantik* (1913 ed.) 1794
1763–1825 Jean Paul [Richter], *Vorschule der Ästhetik* 1804
1764–1839 Dorothea Vett [-Schlegel], nee Mendelssohn, *Florentin* 1801
1767–1845 August Wilhelm von Schlegel, *On Dramatic Art and Literature* 1808
1767–1835 Wilhelm von Humboldt, *On Language* 1820
1768–1834 Friedrich Schleiermacher, *On Religion* 1799
1769–1859 Alexander von Humboldt, *Cosmos* 1845
1770–1831 Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit* 1807
1770–1843 Friedrich Hölderlin, *Hyperion* 1797–9

xii
### Chronology of German Idealism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Authors and Works</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1772–1801</td>
<td>Friedrich von Hardenberg (Novalis), <em>Christiandom or Europe</em></td>
<td>1799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1773–1853</td>
<td>Ludwig Tieck, <em>Phantasus</em></td>
<td>1812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1773–1798</td>
<td>Wilhelm Heinrich Wackenroder, <em>Confessions</em></td>
<td>1797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1776–1822</td>
<td>Ernst Theodor Amadeus Hoffman, <em>Undine</em></td>
<td>1816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1777–1811</td>
<td>Heinrich von Kleist, <em>The Prince of Homburg</em></td>
<td>1821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1779–1829</td>
<td>Adam Müller, <em>Elements of Statecraft</em></td>
<td>1808–9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1788–1860</td>
<td>Arthur Schopenhauer, <em>The World as Will and Representation</em></td>
<td>1819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1804–1872</td>
<td>Ludwig Andreas Feuerbach, <em>The Essence of Christianity</em></td>
<td>1841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1808–1874</td>
<td>David Friedrich Strauss, <em>The Life of Jesus</em></td>
<td>1835–6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1813–1855</td>
<td>Søren Aabye Kierkegaard, <em>Fear and Trembling</em></td>
<td>1843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1818–1883</td>
<td>Karl Marx, <em>German Ideology</em></td>
<td>1845–6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1820–1895</td>
<td>Friedrich Engels, <em>German Ideology</em></td>
<td>1845–6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Plan of Jena, 1858, reproduced by permission of the Städtische Museen Jena.

Guide to the Jena residences of philosophers and other notable figures in the early 1800s:

1. August Wilhelm Schlegel, professor of literature, Friedrich Schlegel, writer, Caroline (Böhmer) Schlegel, wife of August Wilhelm Schlegel (later, married to Schelling) (probably at the back court of the corner of Leutrastrasse and Brüdergasse)
2. Ludwig Tieck, writer (Fischergasse)
3. Johann Wolfgang Goethe, poet and government official (city palace; he also had a garden house in the botanical garden)
4. C. F. E. Frommann, publisher (Fürstengraben 18)
5. F. W. J. Schelling, philosopher (Fürstengraben 16)
6. Friedrich Schiller, poet (apartment in the Griesbach House, Schlossgasse 17, later a garden house on the Leutra, Schillergässchen 2)
7. Sophie Moreau, writer, feminist (behind the church, Jennergasse)
8. Friedrich Hölderlin, poet (probably Unterlauengasse 17)
9. J. W. Ritter, scientist (Fürstengraben 18, Zwätzengasse 9)
10. Henrik Steffens, scientist (Lutherplatz 2, the Schwarzer Bär)
11. J. G. Fichte, philosopher (Romantikerhaus)
12. G. W. F. Hegel, philosopher (Unterlauengasse 15, next to the Romantikerhaus)
13. C. G. Schuetz, editor of the Allgemeine Literatur Zeitung (Engelplatz)
14. G. Hufeland, judge, legal theorist (Leutragraben)