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978-0-521-66791-3 - Kant and the Reach of Reason: Studies in Kant's Theory of Rational Systematization

Nicholas Rescher

Frontmatter

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## **Kant and the Reach of Reason**

### **Studies in Kant's Theory of Rational Systematization**

The essays collected in this volume have a strong thematic and interpretative unity. Their underlying concern is with the overall nature of Kant's philosophical system, and thus with his deepest intentions and basic commitments.

The book falls into three parts. The first three essays deal with Kant's approach to things-in-themselves and with the realm of noumenal causality. The second part considers Kant's approach to the methodology of rational inquiry, and, in particular, his views on cognitive systematization and the limits of philosophizing itself. The third section focuses on the role played by the Categorical Imperative in both the theoretical and practical philosophy.

The aim throughout, one that many Kant scholars and students will find provocative, is to show that in an important sense Kant is prepared to assert the primacy of practical over theoretical philosophy.

Nicholas Rescher is University Professor of Philosophy at the University of Pittsburgh.

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NICHOLAS RESCHER

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Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page vii</i>
<i>Introduction</i>	<i>1</i>
1 On the Status of “Things-in-Themselves” in Kant’s Critical Philosophy	5
2 Kant on Noumenal Causality	21
3 Kant’s Cognitive Anthropocentrism	36
4 Kant on Cognitive Systematization	64
5 Kant’s Teleological Theology	99
6 Kant on the Limits and Prospects of Philosophy	130
7 On the Reach of Pure Reason in Kant’s Practical Philosophy	188
8 On the Rationale of Kant’s Categorical Imperative	200
9 On the Unity of Kant’s Categorical Imperative	230
<i>Notes</i>	<i>249</i>
<i>Name Index</i>	<i>257</i>

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## Acknowledgments

This book gathers together various essays on the philosophy of Kant that I have written over a period of some thirty years. Almost all of them have appeared in print, and I am grateful to the publishers concerned for permission to reprint this material in the slightly revised form appropriate to a collection of this sort. I am indebted to Estelle Burris for her help in preparing this material for publication and grateful to an anonymous referee from Cambridge University Press for offering constructive suggestions for improvement.

### NOTES ON TEXT QUOTATIONS AND TRANSLATIONS

A word of explanation may be in order regarding my practice of giving extensive quotations from Kant's texts instead of mere references to them. These discussions present some rather unorthodox interpretations of Kant's philosophical position, and I believe that it is conducive to the prospects of persuasion to make the textual support for these interpretations manifest, presenting then and there the evidence for thinking that Kant actually holds the views I attribute to him.

The Kant of the present book uses English, courtesy of the following translations:

1. *Critique of Pure Reason*, tr. Norman Kemp Smith (London: Macmillan, 1929). Cited as *CPuR*.
2. *Critique of Practical Reason*, tr. Lewis White Beck (New York: Bobbs-Merrill, 1956). Cited as *CPrR*.

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### Acknowledgments

3. *Critique of Judgment*, tr. J. H. Bernard (London: Macmillan, 1892). Cited as *CJ*.
4. *Prolegomena to any Future Metaphysic*, tr. Lewis White Beck (New York: Bobbs-Merrill, 1950). Cited as *Prolegomena*.
5. *Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals*, tr. Lewis White Beck (New York: Bobbs-Merrill, 1959). Cited as *Grundlegung*.
6. *Metaphysical Foundations of Natural Science*, tr. James Ellington (New York, 1970). Cited as *Metaphysical Foundations*.
7. *The Metaphysics of Morals*, pt. II, tr. James Ellington (New York, 1964).

Use of these translations has not, however, been slavish. On frequent occasions they have been modified in the interests of accuracy.

In the case of *CPuR*, references are given in the pagination of the first (A) and second (B) editions. In all other cases, references are given in the pagination of the edition of the erstwhile Royal Prussian Academy of Science (Königliche Preussische Akademie der Wissenschaften) in Berlin.

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