Immanuel Kant’s *Critique of Pure Reason*, first published in 1781, is one of the landmarks of Western philosophy, a radical departure from everything that went before and an inescapable influence on all philosophy since its publication. In this massive work, Kant has three aims. First, he constructs a new theory of knowledge that delivers certainty about the fundamental principles of human experience at the cost of knowledge of how things are in themselves. Second, he delivers a devastating critique of traditional “speculative” metaphysics on the basis of his new theory of knowledge. Third, he suggests how the core beliefs of the Western metaphysical tradition that cannot be justified as theoretical knowledge can nevertheless be justified as objects of “moral faith” because they are the necessary conditions of the possibility of moral agency. Kant started this third project in the *Critique of Pure Reason*, but would go on to complete it in two other works, *Critique of Practical Reason* and *Critique of the Power of Judgment*.

*The Cambridge Companion to Kant’s “Critique of Pure Reason”* is the first collective commentary on this work in English. The seventeen chapters have been written by an international team of scholars, including some of the best-known figures in the field as well as emerging younger talents. The first two chapters situate Kant’s project against the background of Continental rationalism and British empiricism, the dominant schools of early modern philosophy. Eleven chapters then expound and assess all the main arguments of the *Critique*. Finally, four chapters recount the enormous influence of the *Critique* on subsequent philosophical movements, including German Idealism and Neo-Kantianism, twentieth-century Continental philosophy, and twentieth-century Anglo-American analytic philosophy. The book concludes with an extensive bibliography.

**Paul Guyer** is Professor of Philosophy and Florence R. C. Murray Professor in the Humanities at the University of Pennsylvania, where he has taught since 1982. He is the author or editor of fourteen books on Immanuel Kant and co–general editor of the *Cambridge Edition of the Works of Immanuel Kant*, in which he has co-edited and co-translated the *Critique of Pure Reason, Critique of the Power of Judgment*, and *Notes and Fragments*. 
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CRITIQUE OF
PURE REASON

EDITED BY
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Contributors

R. LANIER ANDERSON is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Stanford University. He works in the history of late modern philosophy, with a primary focus on Kant, Nietzsche, and the Neo-Kantian movement. His recent papers include “It Adds Up After All: Kant’s Philosophy of Arithmetic in Light of the Traditional Logic” (Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, 2004) and “Nietzsche on Truth, Illusion, and Redemption” (The European Journal of Philosophy, 2005). He is working on a book on Kant’s analytic/synthetic distinction and its role in the critique of metaphysics entitled The Poverty of Conceptual Truth.

DANIEL DAHLSTROM is Chair and Professor of Philosophy at Boston University. His most recent publications include Philosophical Legacies: Essays on Kant, Hegel, and Their Contemporaries (2008) and a translation of Heidegger’s first Marburg lectures, Introduction to Phenomenological Research (2006).

DINA EMDUNDTS is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Konstanz, Germany. She is the author of Kant’s Übergangskonzeption im Opus postumum (2004); editor of Kant und die Berliner Aufklärung (2000); and, with Rolf-Peter Horstmann, co-author of G.W.F. Hegel: Eine Einführung (2002).

MICHELLE GRIER is Professor of Philosophy at the University of San Diego. She is the author of Kant’s Doctrine of Transcendental Illusion (2001).

PAUL GUYER is Professor of Philosophy and Florence R.C. Murray Professor in the Humanities at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of nine books on Kant, including, most recently, Kant’s

ROLF-PETER HORSTMANN is Emeritus Professor of German Idealism at the Humboldt University, Berlin, and a regular visiting professor at the University of Pennsylvania. His books include Ontologie und Relationen: Hegel, Bradley, Russell und die Kontroverse über interne und externe Beziehungen (1984); Die Grenzen der Vernunft: Eine Untersuchung zu Zielen und Motiven des Deutschen Idealismus (1991); Bausteine kritischer Philosophie: Arbeiten zu Kant (1997); and, with Dina Emundts, G. W. F. Hegel: Eine Einführung. Among the many volumes he has edited are Dialektik in der Philosophie Hegels (1978) and Transcendental Arguments and Science: Essays in Epistemology, with Peter Bieri and Lorenz Krüger (1979).

A. W. MOORE is Professor of Philosophy at Oxford University. His publications include The Infinite (second edition, 2001); Points of View (1997); and Infinite in Faculty, Noble in Reason: Themes and Variations in Kant’s Moral and Religious Philosophy (2003). He is the editor of Meaning and Reference (1993); Infinity (1993); and Bernard Williams’s posthumous collection Philosophy as a Humanistic Discipline (2003). He is working on a book, Making Sense of Things: The Evolution of Modern Metaphysics.

KONSTANTIN POLLOK is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of South Carolina. He is the author of Kant’s Metaphysische

FREDERICK RAUSCHER is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Michigan State University. He is the author of many articles that focus on Kant’s metaethics, particularly in relation to realism, naturalism, and evolution. He has also translated Kant’s Nachlaß on ethics for Notes and Fragments and is translating and editing Kant’s Lectures and Drafts on Political Philosophy, both for the Cambridge Edition of the Works of Immanuel Kant.

MICHAEL ROHLF is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at The Catholic University of America. He is the author of several articles on Kant.

LISA SHABEL is Associate Professor of Philosophy at The Ohio State University. She is the author of Mathematics in Kant’s Critical Philosophy: Reflections on Mathematical Practice (2003).

ERIC WATKINS is Professor of Philosophy at the University of California, San Diego. His research has focused primarily on Kant’s theoretical philosophy, placing a special emphasis on Kant’s pre-Critical period and philosophy of science. He is the author of Kant and the Metaphysics of Causality (2005). He has edited Kant and the Sciences (2001) and edited and translated Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason: Background Source Materials (2009).

KENNETH R. WESTPHAL is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Kent, Canterbury. His books include Hegel’s Epistemological Realism (1989), Hegel, Hume, und die Identität wahrnehmbarer Dinge (1998); Hegel’s Epistemology: A Philosophical Introduction to the Phenomenology of Spirit (2003); and Kant’s Transcendental Proof of Realism (2004). He is the editor of The Blackwell’s Guide to Hegel’s Phenomenology of Spirit (2009).


ALLEN W. WOOD is Ward W. and Priscilla B. Woods Professor at Stanford University. He was Isaiah Berlin Visiting Professor at Oxford University.

**Julian Wuertz** is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Vanderbilt University. He is the author of *Kant on Mind, Action, and Ethics* (forthcoming) and the co-editor of *Perfecting Virtue: New Essays on Kantian Ethics and Virtue Ethics* (forthcoming).
Abbreviations

Citations to Kant’s texts are generally given parenthetically, although additional references are often included in the footnotes to the chapters. Two forms of citation are employed. Citations from the *Critique of Pure Reason* are located by reference to the pagination of Kant’s first (“A”) and/or second (“B”) editions. All other passages from Kant’s works are cited by the volume and page number, given by Arabic numerals separated by a colon, in the standard edition, of Kant’s works, *Kant’s gesammelte Schriften*, edited by the Royal Prussian, later German, then Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences, 29 volumes (Berlin: Georg Reimer, later Walter de Gruyter & Co., 1900–). Where Kant divided a work into numbered sections, his section number typically precedes the volume and page number. These references are preceded by a short title for the work cited, unless the context makes it obvious. All translations are from the *Cambridge Edition of the Works of Immanuel Kant* (1992–).

The following list, in alphabetical order, gives the short titles of Kant’s works (with the date of original publication in parentheses) that are used throughout the volume.

*Correspondence* Kant’s correspondence, in volumes 10–13 of the Academy edition or in Zweig (see Bibliography)

*Directions* Concerning the Ultimate Ground of the Differentiation of Directions in Space (1768)

*Discovery* On a Discovery whereby any new *Critique of Pure Reason* is made superfluous by an older one (1790)

*Dissertation* Inaugural dissertation *On the Form and Principles of the Sensible and Intelligible Worlds* (1770)

*False Subtlety* On the False Subtlety of the Four Syllogistic Figures (1762)
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