

EXPERIMENTAL PHILOSOPHY AND THE ORIGINS OF EMPIRICISM

The emergence of experimental philosophy was one of the most significant developments in the early modern period. However, it is often overlooked in modern scholarship, despite being associated with leading figures such as Francis Bacon, Robert Boyle, Isaac Newton, Jean Le Rond d'Alembert, David Hume, and Christian Wolff. Ranging from the early Royal Society of London in the seventeenth century to the uptake of experimental philosophy in Paris and Berlin in the eighteenth, this book provides new terms of reference for understanding early modern philosophy and science, and its eventual eclipse in the shadow of post-Kantian notions of empiricism and rationalism. *Experimental Philosophy and the Origins of Empiricism* is an integrated history of early modern experimental philosophy which challenges the rationalism and empiricism historiography that has dominated Anglophone history of philosophy for more than a century.

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CONTENTS

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page</i> vi
<i>List of Tables</i>	vii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	viii
<i>A Note on Citations</i>	x
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xi
 Introduction	 1
 PART I The Rise of Experimental Philosophy	 17
1 The Origins of the Experimental/Speculative Distinction	19
2 Experimental Philosophy in the Seventeenth Century	43
3 Experimental Natural History	75
 PART II The Heyday of Experimental Philosophy	 109
4 Mathematical Experimental Philosophy	111
5 Experimental Philosophy in France	149
6 Experimental Natural Philosophy and Moral Philosophy	176
 PART III From Experimental Philosophy to Empiricism	 201
7 Experimental Philosophy in Eighteenth-Century Germany	203
8 Kant and the Genesis of Empiricism	234
9 Reinhold, Tennemann, and the Rise of Empiricism	258
 Conclusion	 285
 <i>Manuscripts Cited</i>	 299
<i>Newspapers, Broadsheets, and Almanacs</i>	300
<i>References</i>	301
<i>Index</i>	353

FIGURES

1.1 Experimental philosophy and its relation to the neo-Aristotelian theory of knowledge	page 7
1.1 Aristotle's division of knowledge	25
1.2 Aquinas' practical/speculative distinction	26
1.3 Toletus' operative/speculative distinction	27
1.4 Sennert's division of philosophy	28
1.5 Francis Bacon's mature division of natural philosophy	35
1.6 Johnston's division of philosophy with natural history	37
4.1 Proposals for an annual course in experimental philosophy at St Salvator's College, University of St Andrews, Scotland, 1700	117
4.2 The final page of Desaguliers' <i>A Catalogue of the Experiments in Mr Desaguliers's Course</i> , 1713	118
4.3 James Jurin's weather diary exemplar, <i>Philosophical Transactions</i> 32.379, 1723, p. 427	146
6.1 The branches of philosophy in the late seventeenth century	179
6.2 Speculative and practical moral philosophy	180
8.1 A classification of ancient philosophers in Kant's lecture transcripts	244
9.1 One of Reinhold's classifications of the main philosophical movements	267
9.2 Main philosophical movements of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries according to Tennemann	275
9.3 Seventeenth- and eighteenth-century philosophers discussed for at least forty-five pages in Tennemann's <i>History of Philosophy</i> , vols. 10–11	278

TABLES

3.1	Varenius’ heads for special geography and Boyle’s heads for a natural history of a country	<i>page</i> 85
4.1	Lecturers in experimental philosophy at the University of Oxford	120
8.1	Early modern philosophers whom Kant explicitly classes as rationalists or empiricists	247
8.2	Early modern philosophers whom Kant appears to regard as rationalists or empiricists	247
9.1	Seventeenth- and eighteenth-century philosophers discussed for at least one section each in Tennemann’s <i>History of Philosophy</i> , vols. 10–11	276
9.2	Jakob Brucker’s classification of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century philosophers	277

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ix

Blowing a Bladder', c. 1767–1773, by Joseph Wright of Derby (Object Number 58.16) is used courtesy of the Huntington Art Museum, San Marino, California, USA.

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The *Critique of Pure Reason* is quoted with the page numbers of the first edition of 1781 ('A') and of the second edition of 1787 ('B'). Other writings by Kant are cited with the title (sometimes in an abbreviated form), followed by the volume and page number of the Academy Edition (Kant 1900–). Citations from Kant's *Reflexionen* also indicate each *Reflexion*'s number and the dating established by Adickes (sometimes in a simplified form). Translations are our own for those writings of Kant which have not been translated into English. All other translations are from the *Cambridge Edition of the Works of Immanuel Kant* (Kant 1992–). American spelling has been replaced with British spelling in quotations.

Italics in quotations are original, underlinings are added. All translations are our own unless otherwise specified.

ABBREVIATIONS

Bodl.	Bodleian Library
ESD	Experimental/speculative distinction
MS/S	Manuscript/s
OED	<i>Oxford English Dictionary</i>
RED	Rationalism/empiricism distinction

Jean Le Rond d'Alembert

- PD *Preliminary Discourse to the Encyclopedia of Diderot*, trans. Richard N. Schwab, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995. First published as 'Discours préliminaire des éditeurs', in *Encyclopédie, ou dictionnaire raisonné des sciences, des arts et des métiers*, eds. Denis Diderot and Jean Le Rond d'Alembert, vol. 1, Paris, 1751.

Francis Bacon

- OFB *The Oxford Francis Bacon*, eds. Graham Rees et al., Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1996–. Cited by volume number and page number, for example, OFB 11 103.
- SEH *The Works of Francis Bacon*, 7 vols., eds. James Spedding, Robert L. Ellis, and D. D. Heath, London: Longmans and Co., 1857–74. Cited by volume number and page number, for example, SEH 4 104.

Robert Boyle

- B *The Works of Robert Boyle*, 14 vols., eds. Michael Hunter and E. B. Davis, London: Pickering and Chatto, 1999–2000. Cited by volume number and page number, for example, B 4 104. Short titles of Boyle's individual works are used throughout the text.
- Boyle Corr.* *The Correspondence of Robert Boyle*, 6 vols., eds. Michael Hunter, Antonio Clericuzio, and Lawrence M. Principe, London: Pickering and Chatto, 2001.

Denis Diderot

- Pensées* *Pensées sur l'interprétation de la nature*, Amsterdam, 1754.

Denis Diderot and Jean Le Rond d'Alembert

Encycl. *Encyclopédie, ou dictionnaire raisonné des sciences, des arts et des métiers*, eds. Denis Diderot and Jean le Rond d'Alembert, University of Chicago: ARTFL Encyclopédie Project (Spring 2021 ed.), eds. Robert Morrissey and Glenn Roe, <http://encyclopedia.uchicago.edu/>. First published Paris, 1751–72.

David Hume

Treatise *A Treatise of Human Nature*, vol. 1, eds. David F. Norton and Mary J. Norton, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2007 (1st ed., 3 vols., London, 1739–40).

Immanuel Kant

A ... /B ... *Kritik der reinen Vernunft*, Riga: Hartknoch, 1st ed. 1781 ('A'), 2nd ed. 1787 ('B'), ed. Jens Timmermann, Hamburg: Meiner, 1996.

Entd. *Über eine Entdeckung, nach der alle neue Kritik der reinen Vernunft durch eine ältere entbehrlich gemacht werden soll*, in Kant 1900–, vol. 8, pp. 185–251.

Fort. *Welches sind die wirklichen Fortschritte, die die Metaphysik seit Leibnizens und Wolffs Zeiten in Deutschland gemacht hat?*, in Kant 1900–, vol. 20, pp. 253–351.

KpV *Kritik der praktischen Vernunft*, in Kant 1900–, vol. 5, pp. 1–163.

KU *Kritik der Urteilskraft*, in Kant 1900–, vol. 5, pp. 165–485.

Prol. *Prolegomena zu einer jeden künftigen Metaphysik, die als Wissenschaft wird auftreten können*, in Kant 1900–, vol. 4, pp. 253–383.

Refl. *Reflexionen from Kant's Handschriftlicher Nachlaß*, in Kant 1900–, vols. 14–19.

G. W. Leibniz

New Essays *New Essays on Human Understanding*, trans. Peter Remnant and Jonathan Bennett, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

John Locke

Essay *An Essay concerning Human Understanding*, ed. Peter H. Nidditch, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1975.

Isaac Newton

Newton Corr. *The Correspondence of Isaac Newton*, 7 vols., eds. W. H. Turnbull et al., Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1959–77.

Principia *The Principia: Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy*, eds. and trans. I. Bernard Cohen and Anne Whitman, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999.

Henry Oldenburg

Oldenburg Corr. *The Correspondence of Henry Oldenburg*, 13 vols., eds. A. R. Hall and M. B. Hall, Madison, Milwaukee, and London: University of Wisconsin Press, Mansell, and Taylor & Francis, 1965–86.