

Cambridge Elements

Elements in the Philosophy of Immanuel Kant

edited by

Desmond Hogan

Princeton University

Howard Williams

University of Cardiff

Allen Wood

Indiana University

KANT'S THEORY OF LABOUR

Jordan Pascoe
Manhattan College



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-16574-7 — Kant's Theory of Labour
Jordan Pascoe
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)



Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009165747

DOI: 10.1017/9781009165754

© Jordan Pascoe 2022

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 & Assessment.

First published 2022

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

ISBN 978-1-009-16574-7 Paperback
ISSN 2397-9461 (online)
ISSN 2514-3824 (print)

Cambridge University Press & Assessment 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.

Kant's Theory of Labour

Elements in the Philosophy of Immanuel Kant

DOI: 10.1017/9781009165754
First published online: September 2022

Jordan Pascoe
Manhattan College

Author for correspondence: Jordan Pascoe, jordan.pascoe@manhattan.edu

Abstract: By exploring the innovative account of labour embedded in Kant's political philosophy, this Element develops an intersectional and materialist reading of Kant. Drawing on Kant's early notes and lectures on themes of labour, the household, sex, and slavery, alongside his political, historical, and anthropological writing on race and gender, Jordan Pascoe argues that Kant's normative account of independence is configured through his theory of labour, which attends in innovative ways to reproductive labour. By revealing the close linkages between slavery and domestic labour in Kant's political thought, Pascoe shows how Kant's evolving thinking about labour may have shaped his ultimate rejection of slavery, rather than any change in his theory of race. Instead, Kant's theory of labour provides a lens through which to read his anthropological accounts of race and gender as embedded within his political philosophy, and to develop an intersectional analysis of his practical philosophy.

This Element also has a video abstract: www.cambridge.org/pascoe

Keywords: Kant, intersectionality, labour, feminist philosophy, social reproduction

© Jordan Pascoe 2022

ISBNs: 9781009165747 (PB), 9781009165754 (OC)
ISSNs: 2397-9461 (online), 2514-3824 (print)

Contents

1	Could It Be Worth Thinking about Kant on Labour?	1
2	Kant's Theory of Labour	6
3	'A New Star': Kant's 'Trichotomy' Argument	14
4	Of Sex and Slavery: The Development of Domestic Right	20
5	Labour, Leisure, and Laziness: A Kantian Taxonomy of Entitlement	25
6	Kantian Reconstruction: Slavery, Abolition, and Poverty Relief	33
7	The Problem of Kantian Intersectionality	46
8	Concluding Remarks: Kantian Systemic Injustice	53
	References	56