

ORIENTATION IN EUROPEAN ROMANTICISM

Exploring the experiments in individual and national self-consciousness conducted during the Romantic period, this essential comparative study of European literature, philosophy and politics makes original and often surprising connections and contrasts to reveal how personal and social identities were reorientated and disorientated from the French Revolution onwards. Reviving a contested moment in the history of aesthetic theory, this study shows how the growing awareness of irresolution in Kant's third *Kritik* allowed Romantic writers to put the aesthetic to radical uses not envisaged by its parent philosophy. It also recounts how they would go on to force philosophy to revise received notions of authority, empowering women and subordinated ethnic groups to reorientate existing hierarchies. The sheer range and variety of writers covered are testament both to the breadth of writing that Kant's philosophy so rashly legitimated and to the wider importance of philosophy to the understanding of Romantic literature.

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The Art of Falling Upwards

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 978-1-009-26825-7 — Orientation in European Romanticism
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UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
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 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

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Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009268257

DOI: 10.1017/9781009268226

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First published 2023

First paperback edition 2025

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

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication data

NAMES: Hamilton, Paul, 1950– author.

TITLE: Orientation in European Romanticism : the art of falling upwards /
 Paul Hamilton.

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2023. |

SERIES: Cambridge Studies in Romanticism | Includes bibliographical
 references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2022024948 | ISBN 9781009268233 (hardback) |
 ISBN 9781009268226 (ebook)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Kant, Immanuel, 1724–1804 – Influence. |
 Romanticism – Europe. | European literature – 18th century – History and
 criticism. | European literature – 19th century – History and criticism. |
 Philosophy, European – History.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC PN751 .H253 2023 | DDC 809/.03–dc23/eng/20220726
 LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2022024948>

ISBN 978-1-009-26823-3 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-009-26825-7 Paperback

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Acknowledgements

As has happened before, I am indebted to Jim Chandler for percipient encouragement at a critical moment. Franco D’Intino and Rüdiger Görner, cosmopolitans both, have continued to be warm and gracious hosts to me in their native languages and cultures. I have learned from discussions with many people and audiences, not all academic, over the last ten years or so in which this book was being written. I have especially happy recollections of spontaneous but formative exchanges with Serena Baiesi, Peter de Bolla, Michael Caesar, Daniel Chakrabarti, Michaela Chamberlain, Pam Clemit, Chris Cordner, Lilla Crisafulli, David Ferris, Roy Foster, Nicholas Halmi, Astrid Köhler, Marjorie Levinson, Jacob McGuinn, Rosa Mucignat, David Nowell-Smith, Martina Piperno, Chris Prendergast, Tilottama Rajan, Alex Regier, Merrilees Roberts, Michael Rossington, Diego Saglia, James Vigus, Patrick Vincent and Ross Wilson. This, of course, is an incomplete list. Linguistic advice from Ingeborg Bottrall, Rosa Mucignat and Nathalie Wourms helped me, believe it or not, be less inaccurate than I might have been. I dedicate the following *con amore* to Reeta and my family who drive my sun and all the other stars.