

# Cambridge Elements

Elements in the Philosophy of Immanuel Kant

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## KANT AND TELEOLOGY

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Cambridge University Press & Assessment  
978-1-009-66238-3 — Kant and Teleology  
Thomas Teufel  
Frontmatter  
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UNIVERSITY PRESS

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

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a department of the University of Cambridge.

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Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781009662383](http://www.cambridge.org/9781009662383)

DOI: 10.1017/9781108529617

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781108529617

First published 2025

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

ISBN 978-1-009-66238-3 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-108-43855-1 Paperback

ISSN 2397-9461 (online)

ISSN 2514-3824 (print)

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## Kant and Teleology

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DOI: 10.1017/9781108529617  
First published online: March 2025

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**Abstract:** Kant's mature teleological philosophy in the *Critique of the Power of Judgment* is predicated on innovations that address a set of unprecedented challenges arising from within critical philosophy. The challenges are (1) a threat of "transcendental chaos" between sensibility and understanding, emerging from the structure of critical epistemology; (2) a threat of "critical chaos" between determination and reflection, generated by Kant's response to that first threat. The innovations include (a) a transcendental conception of purposiveness, (b) a principle of nature's purposiveness based on that conception, (c) a power of judgment governed by that principle, (d) and so governed in an unusual (self-given and self-governing) way, (e) a view on which nature does make leaps. This Element argues that Kant's mature teleological philosophy – and a fortiori Kant's aesthetics and philosophy of biology – cannot be understood without a fully systematic account of these challenges and innovations, and it presents such an account.

**Keywords:** function, organism, purposiveness, reflecting judgment, systematicity

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ISBNs: 9781009662383 (HB), 9781108438551 (PB), 9781108529617 (OC)  
ISSNs: 2397-9461 (online), 2514-3824 (print)

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