

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-02198-3 - Spinoza and German Idealism
Edited by Eckart Förster and Yitzhak Y. Melamed
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

SPINOZA AND GERMAN IDEALISM

There can be little doubt that without Spinoza, German Idealism would have been just as impossible as it would have been without Kant. Yet the precise nature of Spinoza's influence on the German Idealists has hardly been studied in detail. This volume of essays by leading scholars sheds light on how the appropriation of Spinoza by Fichte, Schelling, and Hegel grew out of the reception of his philosophy by, among others, Lessing, Mendelssohn, Jacobi, Herder, Goethe, Schleiermacher, Maimon, and, of course, Kant. The volume thus not only illuminates the history of Spinoza's thought, but also initiates a genuine philosophical dialogue between the ideas of Spinoza and those of the German Idealists. The issues at stake – the value of humanity; the possibility and importance of self-negation; the nature and value of reason and imagination; human freedom; teleology; intuitive knowledge; the nature of God – remain of the highest philosophical importance today.

ECKART FÖRSTER is Professor of Philosophy, German, and the Humanities at Johns Hopkins University, and Honorary Professor of Philosophy at the Humboldt-Universität, Berlin. His most recent publications include *The Twenty-Five Years of Philosophy* (2012) and *Kant's Final Synthesis* (2000).

YITZHAK Y. MELAMED is Associate Professor of Philosophy and the Humanities at Johns Hopkins University. He is the author of *Spinoza's Metaphysics of Substance and Thought* (forthcoming), and co-editor, with Michael A. Rosenthal, of *Spinoza's Theological-Political Treatise: A Critical Guide* (Cambridge, 2010).

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-02198-3 - Spinoza and German Idealism
Edited by Eckart Förster and Yitzhak Y. Melamed
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-02198-3 - Spinoza and German Idealism
Edited by Eckart Förster and Yitzhak Y. Melamed
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

SPINOZA AND GERMAN IDEALISM

EDITED BY
ECKART FÖRSTER
AND
YITZHAK Y. MELAMED



Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-02198-3 - Spinoza and German Idealism
Edited by Eckart Förster and Yitzhak Y. Melamed
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107021983

© Cambridge University Press 2012

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.

First published 2012

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

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

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data
Spinoza and German idealism / edited by Eckart Förster, Yitzhak Y. Melamed.
p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-02198-3 (hardback)

1. Spinoza, Benedictus de, 1632–1677. 2. Idealism, German–History. 3. Philosophy,
German–17th century. I. Förster, Eckart. II. Melamed, Yitzhak Y., 1968–
B3998.S7275 2012
199'.492–dc23
2012014212

ISBN 978-1-107-02198-3 hardback

Cambridge University Press 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.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-02198-3 - Spinoza and German Idealism
Edited by Eckart Förster and Yitzhak Y. Melamed
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

*To our children,
Kira Förster, and Yonathan-Moshe, Alma-Eva, and
Daniel-Jacob Melamed*

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-02198-3 - Spinoza and German Idealism
Edited by Eckart Förster and Yitzhak Y. Melamed
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-02198-3 - Spinoza and German Idealism
Edited by Eckart Förster and Yitzhak Y. Melamed
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Contents

<i>List of contributors</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xi
Introduction	i
1 Rationalism, idealism, monism, and beyond <i>Michael Della Rocca</i>	7
2 Kant’s idea of the unconditioned and Spinoza’s: the fourth Antinomy and the Ideal of Pure Reason <i>Omri Boehm</i>	27
3 “The question is whether a purely apparent person is possible” <i>Karl Ameriks</i>	44
4 Herder and Spinoza <i>Michael N. Forster</i>	59
5 Goethe’s Spinozism <i>Eckart Förster</i>	85
6 Fichte on the consciousness of Spinoza’s God <i>Johannes Haag</i>	100
7 Fichte on freedom: the Spinozistic background <i>Allen Wood</i>	121
8 Spinoza in Schelling’s early conception of intellectual intuition <i>Dalia Nassar</i>	136
9 Schelling’s philosophy of identity and Spinoza’s <i>Ethica more geometrico</i> <i>Michael Vater</i>	156

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-02198-3 - Spinoza and German Idealism
Edited by Eckart Förster and Yitzhak Y. Melamed
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

viii	<i>Contents</i>	
10	“Omnis determinatio est negatio”: determination, negation, and self-negation in Spinoza, Kant, and Hegel <i>Yitzhak Y. Melamed</i>	175
11	Thought and metaphysics: Hegel’s critical reception of Spinoza <i>Dean Moyar</i>	197
12	Two models of metaphysical inferentialism: Spinoza and Hegel <i>Gunnar Hindrichs</i>	214
13	Trendelenburg and Spinoza <i>Frederick Beiser</i>	232
14	A reply on Spinoza’s behalf <i>Don Garrett</i>	248
	<i>Bibliography</i>	265
	<i>Index of references to Spinoza’s Ethics</i>	276
	<i>General index</i>	278

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-02198-3 - Spinoza and German Idealism
Edited by Eckart Förster and Yitzhak Y. Melamed
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Contributors

KARL AMERIKS is McMahon-Hank Professor of Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame.

FREDERICK BEISER is Professor of Philosophy at Syracuse University.

OMRI BOEHM is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the New School for Social Research, New York.

MICHAEL DELLA ROCCA is Andrew Downey Orrick Professor of Philosophy at Yale University.

ECKART FÖRSTER is Professor of Philosophy, German, and the Humanities at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, and Honorary Professor of Philosophy at the Humboldt-Universität, Berlin.

MICHAEL N. FORSTER is Glen A. Lloyd Distinguished Service Professor of Philosophy and the College at the University of Chicago.

DON GARRETT is Professor of Philosophy and Chair of Department at New York University.

JOHANNES HAAG is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Potsdam.

GUNNAR HINDRICHS is Visiting Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Pennsylvania.

YITZHAK Y. MELAMED is Associate Professor of Philosophy and the Humanities at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.

DEAN MOYAR is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.

DALIA NASSAR is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Villanova University.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-02198-3 - Spinoza and German Idealism
Edited by Eckart Förster and Yitzhak Y. Melamed
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

x

List of contributors

MICHAEL VATER is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Marquette University, Milwaukee.

ALLEN WOOD is Ruth Norman Halls Professor of Philosophy at Indiana University, Bloomington.

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-107-02198-3 - Spinoza and German Idealism
 Edited by Eckart Förster and Yitzhak Y. Melamed
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Abbreviations

(for complete references see the bibliography)

- AA Kant, *Gesammelte Schriften* (Akademie Ausgabe)
 A/B Kant, *Critik der reinen Vernunft*, 1st edn. (A); and 2nd edn. (B), respectively
 AT Descartes, *Oeuvres de Descartes* (ed. Adam and Tannery)
 C *The Collected Works of Spinoza* (ed. and trans. Curley)
 CM Spinoza, *Metaphysical Thoughts* (in C)
 CSM *The Philosophical Writings of Descartes* (trans. Cottingham, Stoothoff, and Murdoch)
 DPP Spinoza, *Descartes' Principles of Philosophy* (in C)
 E Spinoza, *Ethics*: a(-xiom), app(-endix), c(-orollary), d(-efinition), dem(-onstration), expl(-anation), lem(-ma), p(-roposition), pref(-ace), s(-cholium). [Thus, e.g., E1d3 is the third definition of Part 1 and E1p16dem is the demonstration of proposition 16 of Part 1]
 EL Hegel, *The Encyclopaedia Logic*
 Ep. Spinoza, *The Letters*
 FW Fichte, *Werke*, ed. I. H. Fichte
 G Spinoza, *Opera* (ed. C. Gebhardt). [E.g., G iv/25/12 is a reference to Vol. iv of Gebhardt's critical edition, p. 25, line 12]
 GA Fichte, *Gesamtausgabe der Bayrischen Akademie der Wissenschaften*
 GW Hegel, *Gesammelte Werke*

HA	Goethe, <i>Werke</i> (Hamburger Ausgabe)
HG	Herder, <i>Werke</i> (ed. U. Gaier <i>et al.</i>)
HKA	Schelling, <i>Werke</i> (Historisch-kritische Ausgabe)
HS	Herder, <i>Sämtliche Werke</i> (ed. Suphan <i>et al.</i>)
IW	Fichte, <i>Introductions to the Wissenschaftslehre and Other Writings (1787–1800)</i>
KGA	Schleiermacher, <i>Kritische Gesamtausgabe</i>
KpV	Kant, <i>Critique of Practical Reason</i>
KrV	Kant, <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i>
KV	Spinoza, <i>Short Treatise on God, Man, and his Well-Being</i> (in C)
LHP	Hegel, <i>Lectures on the History of Philosophy</i>
LPR	Hegel, <i>Lectures on the Philosophy of Religion</i>
NR	Fichte, <i>Foundations of Natural Right</i>
SE	Fichte, <i>System of Ethics</i>
SL	<i>Hegel's Science of Logic</i> (trans. Miller)
SW	Schelling, <i>Sämtliche Werke</i>
TIE	Spinoza, <i>Treatise on the Emendation of the Intellect</i> (in C)
TTP	Spinoza, <i>Theologico-Political Treatise</i>
W	Hegel, <i>Werke in 20 Bänden</i>