Kant’s monumental book the *Critique of Pure Reason* was arguably the most conceptually revolutionary work in the history of philosophy, and its impact continues to be felt throughout philosophical debates today. But it is a notoriously difficult work whose basic meaning and lasting philosophical significance are both subject to ongoing controversy. In this *Critical Guide*, an international team of leading Kant scholars addresses the challenges, clarifying Kant’s basic terms and arguments and engaging with the debates that surround this central text. Providing compact explanations along with cutting-edge interpretations of nearly all of the main themes and arguments in Kant’s *Critique*, this volume provides well-balanced arguments on such controversial topics as the interpretation of Kant’s transcendental idealism, conceptualism and nonconceptual content in perception, and the soundness of his transcendental arguments. This volume will engage readers of Kant at all levels.

JAMES R. O’SHEA is Professor of Philosophy at University College Dublin. He is the author of *Wilfrid Sellars: Naturalism with a Normative Turn* (2007) and Kant’s “Critique of Pure Reason”: *An Introduction and Interpretation* (2012), and the editor of *Sellars and His Legacy* (2016).
KANT’S
CRITIQUE OF
PURE REASON

A Critical Guide

EDITED BY
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Translations and Abbreviations

Unless authors indicate otherwise in their chapters, all translations are from the Cambridge Edition of the Writings of Immanuel Kant (CE), series editors Paul Guyer and Allen W. Wood (Cambridge, 1992–). Page citations are to Kant’s gesammelte Schriften, Ausgabe der Königlich-Preußischen Akademie der Wissenschaften (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1902–), using the volume:page number format (e.g., 10:129) found in the margins of the Cambridge Edition volumes, and in many cases, the pages of the Cambridge Editions are provided, too. References to the Critique of Pure Reason, however, are by means of the standard “A/B” references to the first (1781) and second (1787) editions, respectively. The following are the abbreviations of Kant’s works used throughout this volume.

Ak. Akademie Ausgabe


CE Cambridge Edition of the Writings of Immanuel Kant.


Corr Correspondence, CE 1999 (Ak. 10–13), A. Zweig, trans., ed.


CPrR Critique of Practical Reason (Kritik der praktischen Vernunft [1788], Ak. 5), in Practical Philosophy, CE 1996, M. J. Gregor, trans., ed.

Discov On a Discovery, according to which all Modern Critique of Pure Reason is alleged to be made Superfluous by an Earlier...
Translations and Abbreviations

Critique (Über eine Entdeckung, nach der alle neue Kritik der reinen Vernunft durch eine ältere entbehrlich gemacht werden soll [1790], Ak. 8), in TP1.

DS Concerning the Ultimate Ground of the Differentiation of Directions in Space (Von dem ersten Grunde des Unterschiedes der Gegenden im Raume [1768], Ak. 2), in TP1.

E Erdmann, Benno: Kant’s notes in his own copy of the first edition of CPR, referring to the original pages in Erdmann 1881, reprinted in Ak. 23, and as footnotes in the Cambridge Edition of CPR.

FS The False Subtlety of the Four Syllogistic Figures (Die falsche Spitzfindigkeit der vier syllogistischen Figuren [1762], Ak. 2), in TP1.

G Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals (Grundlegung zur Metaphysik der Sitten [1785], Ak. 4), in Practical Philosophy, CE 1996, M. J. Gregor, trans., ed.

ID Inaugural Dissertation (Concerning the Form and Principles of the Sensible and Intelligible World; De mundi sensibilis atque intelligibilis forma et principiis, [1770], Ak. 2), in TP1.

Inquiry Inquiry Concerning the Distinctness of the Principles of Natural Theology and Morality (Untersuchung über die Deutlichkeit der Grundsätze der natürlichen Theologie und der Moral [1764], Ak. 2), in TP1.

JL Jäsche Logic, in LL.


LRel Lectures on the Philosophical Doctrine of Religion, in RRT

MF Metaphysical Foundations of Natural Science (Metaphysische Anfanggründe der Naturwissenschaft [1786], Ak. 4), in TP2.

NE A New Elucidation of the First Principles of Metaphysical Cognition (Principiorum primorum cognitionis metaphysicae nova dilucidatio [1755], Ak. 1), in TP1.


NM Attempt to Introduce the Concept of Negative Magnitudes into Philosophy (Versuch den Begriff der negativen Grössen in die Weltweisheit einzuführen [1763], Ak. 2), in TP1.
Translations and Abbreviations

**OPA** The Only Possible Argument in Support of a Demonstration of the Existence of God (Der einzig mögliche Beweisgrund zu einer Demonstration des Daseins Gottes [1763], Ak. 2), in TP₁.

**PM** Physical Monadology (The Employment in Natural Philosophy of Metaphysics combined with Geometry, of which Sample I contains the Physical Monadology; Metaphysicae cum geometria iunctae usus in philosophia naturali, cuius specimen I. continet monadologiam physicam [1756], Ak. 1), in TP₁.

**Prol** Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics that will be Able to Come Forward as Science (Prolegomena zu einer jeden künftigen Metaphysik, die als Wissenschaft wird auftreten können [1783], Ak. 4), in TP₂.

**RefI (R)** Reflexionen, from Kant’s *handschriftliche Nachlaß* (“handwritten remains”), by Reflexionen number (R), Ak. volume:page reference, and page in NF where applicable.

