

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO SPINOZA

Second Edition

Benedict (Benedictus, Baruch) de Spinoza (1632-77) was one of the most systematic, inspiring, and influential philosophers of the early modern period. From a pantheistic starting point that identified God with Nature as all of reality, he sought to demonstrate an ethics of reason, virtue, and freedom while unifying religion with science and mind with body. His contributions to metaphysics, epistemology, psychology, ethics, politics, and the analysis of religion remain vital to the present day. Yet his writings initially appear forbidding to contemporary readers, and his ideas have often been misunderstood. This second edition of The Cambridge Companion to Spinoza includes new chapters on Spinoza's life, metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of religion, and biblical scholarship, as well as extensive updates to the previous chapters and bibliography. A thorough, reliable, and accessible guide to this extraordinary philosopher, it will be invaluable to anyone who wants to understand what Spinoza has to teach.

DON GARRETT is Silver Professor of Philosophy at New York University. His publications include *Cognition and Commitment* in Hume's Philosophy (1997), Hume (2015), and Nature and Necessity in Spinoza's Philosophy (2018).



OTHER VOLUMES IN THE SERIES OF CAMBRIDGE COMPANIONS

ABELARD Edited by Jeffrey E. Brower and Kevin Guilfoy

ADORNO Edited by Thomas Huhn

ANCIENT ETHICS Edited by Christopher Bobonich

ANCIENT GREEK AND ROMAN SCIENCE Edited by LIBA TAUB

ANCIENT SCEPTICISM Edited by RICHARD BETT

ANSELM Edited by Brian Davies and Brian Leftow

AQUINAS Edited by Norman Kretzmann and Eleonore Stump

ARABIC PHILOSOPHY Edited by Peter Adamson and Richard C. Taylor

HANNAH ARENDT Edited by Dana VILLA

ARISTOTLE Edited by Jonathan Barnes

ARISTOTLE'S 'POLITICS' Edited by marguerite deslauriers and paul destrée

ATHEISM Edited by MICHAEL MARTIN

AUGUSTINE 2nd edition Edited by DAVID MECONI and ELEONORE STUMP

BACON Edited by Markku Peltonen

BERKELEY Edited by Kenneth P. Winkler

BOETHIUS Edited by John Marenbon

BRENTANO Edited by Dale Jacquette

CARNAP Edited by Michael Friedman and Richard Creath

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE Edited by WILLIAM E. SCHEUERMAN

COMMON-SENSE PHILOSOPHY Edited by RIK PEELS and RENÉ VAN WOUDENBERG

THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO Edited by Terrell Carver and James Farr

CONSTANT Edited by Helena Rosenblatt

CRITICAL THEORY Edited by FRED RUSH

DARWIN 2nd edition Edited by Jonathan Hodge and Gregory Radick

SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR Edited by Claudia Card

DELEUZE Edited by Daniel W. Smith and Henry Somers-Hall

DESCARTES Edited by John Cottingham

DESCARTES' 'MEDITATIONS' Edited by DAVID CUNNING

DEWEY Edited by Molly Cochran

DUNS SCOTUS Edited by Thomas Williams

EARLY GREEK PHILOSOPHY Edited by A. A. LONG

EARLY MODERN PHILOSOPHY Edited by Donald Rutherford

EPICUREANISM Edited by James Warren

EXISTENTIALISM Edited by STEVEN CROWELL

'THE FEDERALIST' Edited by Jack N. Rakove and colleen A. Sheehan

Continued at the back of the book



The Cambridge Companion to

SPINOZA

SECOND EDITION

Edited by
Don Garrett
New York University





CAMBRIDGEUNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, 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 the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107096165

DOI: 10.1017/9781316156186

First and second editions © Cambridge University Press 1996, 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.

First published 1996 13th printing 2009 Second edition 2022

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ Books Limited, Padstow Cornwall

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

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Garrett, Don, editor.

Title: The Cambridge companion to Spinoza / edited by Don Garrett, New York University. Description: Second edition. | Cambridge, United Kingdom; New York, NY, USA: Cambridge University Press, 2021. | Series: Cambridge companions to philosophy | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2021025361 (print) | LCCN 2021025362 (ebook) | ISBN 9781107096165 (hardback) | ISBN 9781107479876 (paperback) | ISBN 9781316156186 (epub) Subjects: LCSH: Spinoza, Benedictus de, 1632–1677. | BISAC: PHILOSOPHY / History & Surveys / Modern

Classification: LCC B3998 .C32 2021 $\{print\}$ | LCC B3998 $\{ebook\}$ | DDC 199/.492—dc23 LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2021025361

LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2021025362

ISBN 978-1-107-09616-5 Hardback ISBN 978-1-107-47987-6 Paperback

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.



Contents

	List of Contributors	page vii
	List of Abbreviations and Method of Citation	ix
	Introduction DON GARRETT	1
1	Spinoza's Life PIET STEENBAKKERS	12
2	Spinoza's Metaphysics of Substance YITZHAK Y. MELAMED	61
3	Spinoza on the Metaphysics of Thought and Extension MARTIN LIN	113
4	Spinoza's Epistemology URSULA RENZ	141
5	Spinoza on Natural Science and Methodology ALAN GABBEY	187
6	Spinoza's Metaphysical Psychology MICHAEL DELLA ROCCA	234
7	Spinoza's Ethical Theory DON GARRETT	282
8	Kissinger, Spinoza, and Genghis Khan EDWIN CURLEY	309
9	Spinoza's Philosophical Religion SUSAN JAMES	335

V



vi CONTENTS

10	Spinoza's Contribution to Biblical Scholarship EDWIN CURLEY	354
11	Spinoza's Reception Pierre-françois moreau and mogens lærke	405
	Bibliography	444
	Index	475



Contributors

Edwin Curley, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy, University of Michigan, has published *Spinoza's Metaphysics* (Harvard University Press, 1969), *The Collected Works of Spinoza* (2 vols., Princeton University Press, 1985 and 2016), *Behind the Geometrical Method* (Princeton University Press, 1988), and articles on a wide variety of topics in Spinoza's philosophy.

Michael Della Rocca is Andrew Downey Orrick Professor of Philosophy at Yale University. His writings include *The Parmenidean Ascent* (Oxford University Press, 2020), *Spinoza* (Routledge, 2008), and numerous articles in the history of philosophy and in contemporary metaphysics.

Alan Gabbey is Emeritus Professor of Philosophy, Barnard College, New York, and is a *membre effectif* of the Académie Internationale d'Histoire des Sciences. He specializes in early modern philosophy and science and has published articles on Descartes, Newton, Henry More, Anne Conway, Huygens, and Spinoza.

Don Garrett is Silver Professor of Philosophy at New York University. He is the author of *Cognition and Commitment in Hume's Philosophy* (Oxford University Press, 1997), *Hume* (Routledge, 2015), and *Nature and Necessity in Spinoza's Philosophy* (Oxford University Press, 2018).

Susan James is Professor of Philosophy at Birkbeck College London. Her publications include *Spinoza on Philosophy, Theology, and Politics: The Theologico-Political Treatise* (Oxford University Press, 2014), and *Spinoza on Learning to Live Together* (Oxford University Press, 2020).

Mogens Lærke is a senior researcher at the CNRS in France, a fellow at the Maison Française d'Oxford, and a member of the research institute IHRIM at the ENS de Lyon. He is the author of *Spinoza and the Freedom of Philosophizing* (Oxford University Press, 2021).

vii



viii LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Martin Lin is Professor of Philosophy at Rutgers University, New Brunswick. He is the author of *Being and Reason: An Essay on Spinoza's Metaphysics* (Oxford University Press, 2019) and many articles on early modern philosophy.

Yitzhak Y. Melamed is the Charlotte Bloomberg Professor of Philosophy at Johns Hopkins University. He works on early modern philosophy, German idealism, medieval philosophy, and some issues in contemporary metaphysics and political philosophy. He is the author of *Spinoza's Metaphysics: Substance and Thought* (Oxford University Press, 2015).

Pierre-François Moreau is Emeritus Professor at the École Normale Supérieure de Lyon. He is the editor of Œuvres complètes de Spinoza (Presses Universitaires de France, 2009) and the author of Le récit utopique (Presses Universitaires de France, 1982); Spinoza. L'expérience et l'éternité (Presses Universitaires de France, 1994); and Lucrèce. L'âme (Presses Universitaires de France, 2002).

Ursula Renz is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Graz, Austria. She has authored several books and numerous articles on historical and philosophical topics. Her monograph on Spinoza, *The Explainability of Experience* (Vittorio Klostermann, 2010 in German; Oxford, 2018 in English) won the *Journal of the History of Philosophy* Prize in 2011.

Piet Steenbakkers, before retiring in 2016, was Senior Lecturer of the history of modern philosophy at Utrecht University and holder of the Chair of Spinoza Studies at Erasmus University Rotterdam. With F. Akkerman and P. F. Moreau, he edited Spinoza's *Ethica* (Presses Universitaires de France, 2020).



Abbreviations and Method of Citation

Where references are by author and year of publication, full reference information may be found in the Bibliography. The following common abbreviations have been used in referring to Spinoza's writings:

CGLH	Compendium of Hebrew Grammar (Compendium
	grammatices linguae Hebraeae)
DPP	Descartes's "Principles of Philosophy" (Renati Des Cartes
	Principiorum philosophiae pars I et II, more geometrico
	demonstratae)
E	Ethics (Ethica ordine geometrico demonstrata)
Ep	Correspondence (Epistulae)
KV	Short Treatise on God, Man, and His Well-Being (Korte
	Verhandeling van God, de Mensch, en des zelfs Welstand)
TIE	Treatise on the Emendation of the Intellect (Tractatus de
	intellectus emendatione)
TP	Political Treatise (Tractatus politicus)
TTP	Theological-Political Treatise (Tractatus theologico-
	politicus

References to the Short Treatise on God, Man, and His Well-Being are by part number followed by chapter number; references to the Political Treatise and the Theological-Political Treatise are by chapter number followed by the section numbers introduced in the Bruder edition of Spinoza's works and reproduced in many subsequent editions. References to the Treatise on the Emendation of the Intellect are by Bruder section numbers. References to the Correspondence are by letter number.

References to the *Ethics* and to *Descartes's "Principles of Philosophy"* begin with the part number and employ the following common abbreviations:

-	
ap	appendix
c	corollary
d	definition (when not following a proposition number)
d	demonstration (when following a proposition number)

ix

axiom

а



X LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND METHOD OF CITATION

da	definition of the affects (located at the end of Ethics Part 3)
ex	explanation
le	lemma (located following Ethics 2p13)
p	proposition
po	postulate
pr	preface
s	scholium (note)

For example, "E 1p14d,c1" refers to *Ethics* Part 1, proposition 14 demonstration and corollary 1. Citations may also include reference to the volume and page number of the Gebhardt edition of Spinoza's works:

G Spinoza, Benedict de. 1925. *Spinoza Opera*, 4 vols., ed. Carl Gebhardt. Heidelberg: Winter (reprinted 1972).

Other abbreviations employed for purposes of reference in multiple chapters are as follows:

1	•
AA	Leibniz, G. W. 1923- (ongoing publication). Sämtliche
	Schriften und Briefe, Akademie-Ausgabe. Darmstadt and
	other places: Reichl and other publishers.
AT	Descartes, René. 1964-76. Oeuvres de Descartes, 12 vols., ed.
	Charles Adam and Paul Tannery. Paris: J. Vrin.
CSM	Descartes, René. 1985. The Philosophical Writings of
	Descartes, 2 vols., ed. and trans. John Cottingham, Robert
	Stoothoff, and Dugald Murdoch. Cambridge: Cambridge
	University Press.
CW I	Spinoza, Benedict de. 1985. The Collected Works of Spinoza,
	Volume I, ed. and trans. Edwin M. Curley, Princeton:
	Princeton University Press.
CW II	Spinoza, Benedict de 2016. The Collected Works of Spinoza,
	Volume II. ed. and trans. Edwin M. Curley. Princeton:

Volume II, ed. and trans. Edwin M. Curley. Princeton:
Princeton University Press.

PP
Descartes, René. Principles of Philosophy, in CSM, vol. 1.

W/CZ Walther, Manfred, and Michael Czelinski, eds. 2006.

**Lebensgeschichte Spinozas*, 2 vols. (based on Freudenthal, 1899). Stuttgart-Bad Canstatt: Frommann-Holzboog.