This collection of new essays, the first of its kind in English, considers the ways in which the philosophy of Immanuel Kant engages with the views of lesser-known eighteenth-century German thinkers. Each chapter casts new light on aspects of Kant’s complex relationship with these figures, particularly with respect to key aspects of his logic, metaphysics, epistemology, theory of science and ethics. The portrait of Kant that emerges is of a major thinker thoroughly engaged with his contemporaries – drawing on their ideas and approaches, targeting their arguments for criticism and responding to their concerns, and seeking to secure the legacy of his thought among them. This volume will open the door for further research on Kant and his methods of philosophical inquiry, while introducing readers to the distinctive and influential philosophical contributions of several previously neglected figures.

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Abbreviations and Citations

Abbreviations of Kant’s Works

Kant’s works are cited according to the abbreviations given in the list below (which is derived from that provided in the forthcoming Cambridge Kant Lexicon, ed. Julian Wuerth). This is followed by the volume and page number in Kants Gesammelte Schriften, ed. Deutsche (formerly Königlich-Preussische) Akademie der Wissenschaften (Berlin: G. Reimer, 1900–19; De Gruyter, 1920–), abbreviated as ‘Ak.’ below, unless otherwise indicated. As is conventional, the Critique of Pure Reason is cited according to the page numbers in the first (‘A’) and/or second (‘B’) editions. Whenever available, English translations are taken from Cambridge Edition of the Works of Immanuel Kant, abbreviated as ‘CE’ in the list below.

Anthr  Anthropology from a Pragmatic Point of View
       (CE Anthropology, History, and Education, pp. 227–428; Ak, 7:117–333)

CBHH  Conjectural Beginning of Human History (CE Anthropology, History, and Education, pp. 160–75; Ak, 8:107–24)

CF    The Conflict of the Faculties (CE Religion and Rational Theology, pp. 233–327; Ak, 7:1–116)

Corr  Correspondence (CE Correspondence; Ak, 10–13)

CPJ   Critique of the Power of Judgment (CE Critique of the Power of Judgment; Ak, 5:165–485)

CPR   Critique of Pure Reason (CE Critique of Pure Reason; Ak, 4:1–252)

CPrR  Critique of Practical Reason (CE Practical Philosophy, 133–72; Ak, 5:1–163)

DDS  Concerning the Ultimate Ground of the Differentiation of Directions in Space (CE Theoretical Philosophy, 1755–1770, pp. 361–72; Ak, 2:375–83)
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DSS  Dreams of a Spirit-Seer Elucidated by Dreams of Metaphysics (CE Theoretical Philosophy, 1755–1770, pp. 301–59; Ak, 2:315–73)

ETP  Concerning the Employment of Teleological Principles in Philosophy (Ak, 8:157–84)

FS  The False Subtlety of the Four Syllogistic Figures Demonstrated by M. Immanuel Kant (CE Theoretical Philosophy, 1755–1770, pp. 85–105; Ak, 2:45–61)

G  Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals (CE Practical Philosophy, pp. 37–108; Ak, 4:385–463)

HR  Determination of the Concept of a Human Race (CE Anthropology, History, and Education, pp. 143–59; Ak, 8:89–106)

IC  Inquiry Concerning the Distinctness of the Principles of Natural Theology and Morality, Being an Answer to the Question Proposed for Consideration by the Berlin Royal Academy of Sciences for the Year 1763 (CE Theoretical Philosophy, 1755–1770, pp. 243–75; Ak, 2:273–301)

ID  On the Form and Principles of the Sensible and the Intelligible World (Inaugural Dissertation) (CE Theoretical Philosophy, 1755–1770, pp. 373–416; Ak, 2:385–419)

IUH  Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Aim (CE Anthropology, History, and Education, pp. 107–20; Ak, 8:15–31)

JL  Jäsche Logic (CE Lectures on Logic, pp. 517–640; Ak, 9:1–150)

LB  Blomberg Logic (CE Lectures on Logic, pp. 1–246; Ak, 24:7–301)

LDW  Dohna-Wundlacken Logic (CE Lectures on Logic, pp. 425–516; Ak, 24:687–784)

LPh  Philippi Logic (Ak, 24:303–496)

LPö  Pöltitz Logic (Ak, 24:497–602)

LV  Vienna Logic (CE Lectures on Logic, pp. 249–377; Ak, 24:785–940)


MD  Metaphysics Dohna (CE Lectures on Metaphysics, pp. 355–92; Ak, 28:611–704)
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MH Metaphysics Herder (CE Lectures on Metaphysics, pp. 3–16; Ak, 28:1–166, 843–931)
MK2 Metaphysics K2 (CE Lectures on Metaphysics, pp. 395–413; Ak, 28:709–816)
ML1 Metaphysics ML1 (CE Lectures on Metaphysics, pp. 19–106; Ak, 28:167–350)
ML2 Metaphysics L2 (CE Lectures on Metaphysics, pp. 299–354; Ak, 28:525–609)
MM The Metaphysics of Morals (CE Practical Philosophy, pp. 353–604; Ak, 6:203–493)
MMr Metaphysics Mrongovius (CE Lectures on Metaphysics, pp. 107–286; Ak, 29:747–940)
MNS Metaphysical Foundations of Natural Science (CE Theoretical Philosophy after 1781, pp. 171–270; Ak, 4:465–565)
MoC Moral Philosophy Collins (CE Lectures on Ethics, pp. 37–222; Ak, 27:237–471)
MoH Practical Philosophy Herder (CE Lectures on Ethics, pp. 1–36; Ak, 27:3–89)
MoM Moral Philosophy Mrongovius (CE Lectures on Ethics, pp. 223–48; Ak, 27:1395–1581)
MoM2 Moral Philosophy Mrongovius II (Ak, 29:593–641)
MoP Practical Philosophy Powalski (Ak, 27:91–235)
MoV Metaphysics of Morals Vigilantius (CE Lectures on Ethics, pp. 249–452; Ak, 27:475–732)
MPT On the Miscarriage of all Philosophical Trials in Theodicy (CE Religion and Rational Theology, pp. 19–38; Ak, 8:253–71)
MVi Metaphysics Vigilantius (K3) (CE Lectures on Metaphysics, pp. 417–506; Ak, 28:819–38, 29:941–1040)
MVo Metaphysics Volckmann (CE Lectures on Metaphysics, pp. 289–96; Ak, 28:357–460)
NE A New Elucidation of the First Principles of Metaphysical Cognition (CE Theoretical Philosophy 1755–1770, pp. 1–45; Ak, 1:385–416)
NM Attempt to Introduce the Concept of Negative Magnitudes into Philosophy (CE Theoretical Philosophy, 1755–1770, pp. 207–41; Ak, 2:165–204)
OCS On the Common Saying: That May Be Correct in Theory, but It Is of No Use in Practice (CE Practical Philosophy, pp. 273–310; Ak, 8:273–313)
On a Discovery Whereby Any New Critique of Pure Reason Is to Be Made Superfluous by An Older One (CE Theoretical Philosophy after 1781, pp. 271–336; Ak, 8:185–252)

Of the Different Races of Human Beings (CE Anthropology, History, and Education, pp. 82–97; Ak, 2:427–43)

The Only Possible Argument in Support of a Demonstration of the Existence of God (CE Theoretical Philosophy, 1755–1770, pp. 107–201; Ak, 2:63–163)

M. Immanuel Kant’s Announcement of the Programme of His Lectures for the Winter Semester 1765–1766 (CE Theoretical Philosophy, 1755–1770, pp. 287–300; Ak, 2:303–13)

Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics That Will Be Able to Come Forward as Science (CE Theoretical Philosophy after 1781, pp. 29–170; Ak, 4:253–383)

Reflection (+ number) (CE Notes and Fragments; Ak, 14–19)


What Real Progress Has Metaphysics Made in Germany Since the Time of Leibniz and Wolff? (CE Theoretical Philosophy after 1781, pp. 337–424; Ak, 20:253–351)

Review of Schulz’s Attempt at an Introduction to a Doctrine of Morals for all Human Beings Regardless of Different Religions (CE Practical Philosophy, pp. 1–10; Ak, 8:9–14)

Universal Natural History and Theory of the Heavens, or an Essay on the Constitution and Mechanical Origin of the Entire World Edifice Treated According to Newtonian Principles (CE Natural Science, pp. 182–308; Ak, 1:215–368)