Autonomy is one of the central concepts of contemporary moral thought, and Kant is often credited with being the inventor of individual moral autonomy. But how and why did Kant develop this notion? The Emergence of Autonomy in Kant’s Moral Philosophy is the first essay collection exclusively devoted to this topic. It traces the emergence of autonomy from Kant’s earliest writings to the changes which he made to the concept in his mature works. The essays offer a close historical and philosophical analysis of what prompted Kant to develop his conception of autonomy, charting the historical background which stimulated his search, and thoroughly analyzing different stages of his writings in order to see which element of autonomy was introduced at which point. The resulting volume will be of interest to both scholars and students of Kantian moral philosophy, as well as to anyone interested in the subject of autonomy.

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THE EMERGENCE OF AUTONOMY IN KANT’S MORAL PHILOSOPHY

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Abbreviations and Translations

In referencing to Kant’s works, authors use the abbreviations listed below. Page citations list the work abbreviation, volume, page number, and sometimes line number (e.g., “G 4:432.7”) of the Academy Edition of Kant’s works: Kant’s Gesammelte Schriften, edited by the Prussian Academy of Sciences (later Berlin and Göttingen Academies), Berlin: Reimer (later de Gruyter), 1900–. Two exceptions are references to Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason, where page numbers list the original page numbers of the A and B editions (first and second editions), and references to the Kaehler Lecture Notes, which state the original page numbers as recorded in the Stark edition. All translations are taken or adapted, unless indicated otherwise, from the Cambridge Edition of the Writings of Immanuel Kant, series editors Paul Guyer and Allen W. Wood (Cambridge University Press, 1992–).

AA Academy Edition
Anth Anthropologie in pragmatischer Hinsicht [1798] (AA 7)


BDG Der einzig mögliche Beweisgrund zu einer Demonstration des Daseins Gottes [1763] (AA 2)
Abbreviations and Translations

BGSE Beobachtungen über das Gefühl des Schönen und Erhabenen [1764] (AA 2)
Observations on the Feeling of the Beautiful and Sublime in: CE Anthropology, History, and Education

C Moralphilosophie Collins [1774–1777] (AA 27)

CE Cambridge Edition

G Grundlegung zur Metaphysik der Sitten [1785] (AA 4)

HE Praktische Philosophie Herder [1762–1764] (AA 27)
Kant’s Practical Philosophy: Herder’s Lecture Notes in: CE Lectures on Ethics

HM Metaphysik Herder [1762–1764] (AA 28)

HN Handschriftlicher Nachlass (AA 14–23)
Handwritten Remains in: CE Notes and Fragments, ed. Paul Guyer, 2005, and in CE Lectures and Drafts on Political Philosophy

K Moralphilosophie Kaehler [1774–1777]
Immanuel Kant, Vorlesung zur Moralphilosophie, ed. Werner Stark. Berlin: de Gruyter, 2004

KpV Kritik der praktischen Vernunft [1788] (AA 5)
Critique of Practical Reason in: CE Practical Philosophy

KrV A/ Kritik der reinen Vernunft [1781, 1787], cited by A (first edition) /B (second edition)

KU Kritik der Urteilskraft [1790] (AA 6)
CE Critique of the Power of Judgment, ed. Paul Guyer, 2000

M I Moral Mrongovius I [1774–1777] (AA 27)
Mrongovius’ first set of notes on Kant’s moral philosophy lectures in: CE Lectures on Ethics

M II Moral Mrongovius II [1784–1785] (AA 29)
Mrongovius’ second set of notes on Kant’s moral philosophy lectures in: CE Lectures on Ethics
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<td>Die Metaphysik der Sitten [1797–1798] (AA 6)</td>
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<td>MSI</td>
<td>Inaugural Dissertation: De mundi sensibilis atque intelligibilis forma et principiis [1770] (AA 2)</td>
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<td>NEV</td>
<td>“Nachricht von der Einrichtung seiner Vorlesungen in dem Winterhalbenjahre von 1765–1766” [1765] (AA 2)</td>
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<td>NTH</td>
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<td>PND</td>
<td>Principiorum primorum cognitionis metaphysicae nova dilucidatio [1755] (AA 1)</td>
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<td>Prol</td>
<td>Prolegomena zu einer jeden künftigen Metaphysik [1783] (AA 4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>RGV</td>
<td>Die Religion innerhalb der Grenzen der bloßen Vernunft [1793] (AA 6)</td>
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Abbreviations and Translations

TG  Träume eines Geistersehers, erläutert durch die Träume der Metaphysik [1766] (AA 2)
     Dreams of a Spirit-Seer Elucidated by Dreams of Metaphysics in:
     CE Theoretical Philosophy 1755–1770

TP  “Über den Gemeinspruch: Das mag in der Theorie richtig sein, taugt aber nicht für die Praxis” [1793] (AA 8)
     “On the Common Saying: That May Be Correct in Theory, but It Is of No Use in Practice” in: CE Practical Philosophy

UD  Untersuchung über die Deutlichkeit der Grundsätze der natürlichen Theologie und der Moral [1764] (AA 2)
     Inquiry Concerning the Distinctness of the Principles of Natural Theology and Morality in: CE Theoretical Philosophy 1755–1770

UE  Über eine Entdeckung, nach der alle neue Kritik der reinen Vernunft durch eine ältere entbehrlich gemacht werden soll [1790] (AA 8)
     On a Discovery Where Any New Critique of Reason is to Be Made Superfluous by an Older One in: CE Theoretical Philosophy After 1781, ed. Henry Allison et al., 2002

V   Metaphysik der Sitten Vigilantius [1793–1794] (AA 27)
     Kant on the Metaphysics of Morals: Vigilantius’s Lecture Notes in: CE Lectures on Ethics

WA  “Beantwortung der Frage: Was ist Aufklärung?” [1784] (AA 8)
     “An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment?” in: CE Practical Philosophy