Either/Or is Kierkegaard’s first major work and arguably his most virtuosic. It introduces many of the most important philosophical themes that define the rest of his authorship and showcases – through its several pseudonyms and genres – Kierkegaard’s prodigious literary scope. In this Critical Guide, a diverse group of scholars strikes new ground in our understanding of both this work and Kierkegaard’s authorship as a whole. Their essays highlight the text’s philosophical range, with substantial discussions of issues in aesthetics, epistemology, ethics, metaphysics, phenomenology, and philosophy of religion. The volume will be essential reading for anyone seeking to deepen their understanding of Either/Or and Kierkegaard’s work more generally.

Ryan S. Kemp is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Wheaton College, Illinois. He is the author of two books: Reason and Conversion in Kierkegaard and the German Idealists (2020) and Marilynne Robinson’s Worldly Gospel (2023).

Walter Wietzke is Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Wisconsin, River Falls. His work has been published in a number of journals, including Res Philosophica and The European Legacy.
CAMBRIDGE CRITICAL GUIDES

Titles published in this series:
Cicero's De Officis
EDITED BY RAPHAEL WOOLF
Kierkegaard's The Sickness Unto Death
EDITED BY JEFFREY HANSON AND SHARON KRISHEK
Nietzsche's Thus Spoke Zarathustra
EDITED BY KEITH ANSELL-PEARSON AND PAUL S. LOEB
Aristotle's On the Soul
EDITED BY CALEB M. COHORE
Schopenhauer's World as Will and Representation
EDITED BY JUDITH NORMAN AND ALISTAIR WELCHMAN
Kant's Prolegomena
EDITED BY PETER THIELKE
Hegel's Encyclopedia of the Philosophical Sciences
EDITED BY SEBASTIAN STEIN AND JOSHUA WRETZEL
Maimonides' Guide of the Perplexed
EDITED BY DANIEL FRANK AND AARON SEGAL
Fichte's System of Ethics
EDITED BY STEFANO BACIN AND OWEN WARE
Hume's An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals
EDITED BY ESTHER ENGELS KROEKER AND WILLEM LEMMENS
Hobbes's On the Citizen
EDITED BY ROBIN DOUGLASS AND OHAN OLSSTOORN
Hegel's Philosophy of Spirit
EDITED BY MARINA F. BYKOVA
Kant's Lectures on Metaphysics
EDITED BY COURTNEY D. FUGATE
Spinoza's Political Treatise
EDITED BY YITZHAK Y. MELAMED AND HASANA SHARP
Aquinas's Summa Theologica
EDITED BY JEFFREY HAUSE
Aristotle's Generation of Animals
EDITED BY ANDREA FALCON AND DAVID LEFEBVRE
Hegel's Elements of the Philosophy of Right
EDITED BY DAVID JAMES
Kant's Critique of Pure Reason
EDITED BY JAMES R. O'SHEA
Spinoza's Ethics
EDITED BY YITZHAK Y. MELAMED
Plato's Symposium
EDITED BY PIERRE DESTREE AND ZINA GIANNOPOULOU
Fichte's Foundations of Natural Right
EDITED BY GABRIEL GOTTLIEB
Aquinas's Disputed Questions on Evil
EDITED BY M. V. DOUGHERTY
KIERKEGAARD’S EITHER/OR

A Critical Guide

EDITED BY

RYAN S. KEMP
Wheaton College

WALTER WIETZKE
University of Wisconsin

Cambridge University Press

© in this web service Cambridge University Press & Assessment

www.cambridge.org
Contents

List of Contributors page ix
Acknowledgments xi
List of Abbreviations xii

Introduction 1
Ryan S. Kemp and Walter Wietzke

1 Existential Melancholia: The Affective Psychology of the “Diapsalmata” in Either/Or 8
Rick Anthony Furtak and Ruth Rebecca Tietjen

2 Don Giovanni and the Musical-Erotic 25
Fred Rush

3 For What May the Aesthete Hope? Focus and Standstill in “The Unhappiest One” and “Rotation of Crops” 42
Elizabeth Li and Andrew Chignell

4 Companions in Guilt: Aestheticism and Cartesianism as Two Sides of the Same Coin 62
Genia Schönbaumfeld

5 A’s Religion of Boredom 79
Antón Barba-Kay

6 The Artist Is Not Present: Metaphysical Performance in the “Diary of the Seducer” 98
Noreen Khawaja

7 Failed Temporalities in Either/Or 116
Patrick Stokes

8 Love, Marriage, and Delusion in Either/Or 135
Walter Wietzke
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>The Philosophy of Science in <em>Either/Or</em></td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Hans Halvorson</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>The Despair of Judge William</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Sharon Krishek</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>The Problem of Evil in <em>Either/Or</em>: A Religious–Aesthetic Debate</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Ulrika Carlson</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Illusions of Ethical Independence: The “Last Word” in <em>Either/Or</em></td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Daniel Watts</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References  
Index  

© in this web service Cambridge University Press & Assessment  
[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)
Contributors

ANTÓN BARBA-KAY is Robert B. Aird Chair of Humanities at Deep Springs College.

ULRIKA CARLSSON is a writer and independent scholar based in Warsaw, Poland.

ANDREW CHIGNELL is Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor with appointments in Religion, Philosophy, and the Center for Human Values at Princeton University.

RICK ANTHONY FURTAK is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Colorado College.

HANS HALVORSON is Stuart Professor of Philosophy at Princeton University.

RYAN S. KEMP is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Wheaton College.

NOREEN KHAWAJA is Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Yale University.

SHARON KRISHEK is Associate Professor in Philosophy at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

ELIZABETH LI is Assistant Professor in Ethics and Philosophy of Religion at the University of Copenhagen.

FRED RUSH is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame.

GENIA SCHÖNBAUMSFELD is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Southampton.

PATRICK STOKES is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Deakin University.

ix
List of Contributors

Ruth Rebecca Tietjen is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Tilburg University.

Daniel Watts is Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Essex.

Walter Wietzke is Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Wisconsin, River Falls.
Acknowledgments

We would like to acknowledge several people who played an important role in the growth and completion of this volume. First, we owe special thanks to a set of teachers who nourished our early interest in Kierkegaard: Andrew Burgess, John Davenport, Gordon Marino, Anthony Rudd, Fred Rush, and Merold Westphal. We could not ask for a better set of mentors.

Thanks to the many friends and colleagues who encouraged us during the Either/Or years, particularly Adam Buben, Mark Jonas, Greg Lynch, Imtiaz Moosa, and Michael Morgan. Thanks also to Hilary Gaskin for the invitation to embark on this project, as well as her helpful advice along the way.

Finally, we are especially grateful for the love and patient support of our families. For Allison, Jess, Ella, Olivia, Wren, Violet, Suvi, and Wyatt.
Abbreviations

Standard abbreviations are employed throughout this volume for the following Kierkegaardian texts. All citations are by page number unless otherwise noted. For other editions or translations, and for works by other authors, see the References and the footnotes to individual chapters.

In English

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Edition</th>
<th>Translator(s)</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>The Concept of Anxiety</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Reidar Thomte in collaboration with Albert Anderson</td>
<td>Princeton University Press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CI</td>
<td>The Concept of Irony</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong</td>
<td>Princeton University Press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUP</td>
<td>Concluding Unscientific Postscript to Philosophical Fragments, Volume I</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong</td>
<td>Princeton University Press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUP(H)</td>
<td>Concluding Unscientific Postscript to the Philosophical Crumbs</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Alastair Hannay</td>
<td>Cambridge University Press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EO 1</td>
<td>Either/Or, Part I</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong</td>
<td>Princeton University Press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EO 2</td>
<td>Either/Or, Part II</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong</td>
<td>Princeton University Press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUD</td>
<td>Eighteen Upbuilding Discourses</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong</td>
<td>Princeton University Press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSE</td>
<td>For Self-Examination and Judge for Yourself</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong</td>
<td>Princeton University Press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FT</td>
<td>Fear and Trembling and Repetition</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong</td>
<td>Princeton University Press</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

xii
List of Abbreviations


R  Repetition. See Fear and Trembling.


In Danish (Søren Kierkegaards Skrifter)


List of Abbreviations


List of Abbreviations
