

## Hegel on Second Nature in Ethical Life

What does it take to be subjectively free in an objectively rational social order? In this book Andreja Novakovic offers a fresh interpretation of Hegel's account of ethical life by focusing on his concept of habit or "second nature." Novakovic addresses two central and difficult issues facing any interpretation of Hegel's *Philosophy of Right*: why Hegel thinks that it is better to relate unreflectively to the laws of ethical life, and which forms of reflection, especially critical reflection, remain available within ethical life. Her interpretation draws on numerous parts of Hegel's system, particularly on his "Anthropology" and his *Phenomenology of Spirit*, and also explores connections between his account and those of other philosophers. Her aim is to argue that Hegel has a compelling conception of the ordinary ethical standpoint that takes seriously both the virtues and the perils of reflection.

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Andreja Novakovic  
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For my family:  
Lidija, Ivo, and Matthew Novakovic

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## Abbreviations

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### German

- DS *Differenz des Fichteschen und Schellingschen Systems der Philosophie*, in *Jenaer Schriften* (Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp)
- Enz. I *Enzyklopädie der philosophischen Wissenschaften I* (Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp)
- Enz. III *Enzyklopädie der philosophischen Wissenschaften III* (Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp)
- GW *Gesammelte Werke*, ed. Rheinische-Westfälische Akademie der Wissenschaften (Hamburg: F. Meiner)
- PR *Grundlinien der Philosophie des Rechts* (Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp)
- PG *Phänomenologie des Geistes* (Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp)
- NR *Ueber die wissenschaftliche Behandlungsarten des Naturrechts*, in *Jenaer Schriften* (Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp)
- VPG *Vorlesungen über die Philosophie der Geschichte* (Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp)
- VPR *Vorlesungen über die Philosophie des Rechts: Berlin 1819/1820* (Hamburg: F. Meiner)
- VRP *Vorlesungen über Rechtsphilosophie: 1818–1831* (Band 1), edited by Karl Ilting (Stuttgart: Frommann-Holzboog)
- WL II *Wissenschaft der Logik II* (Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp)

### English

- PhR *Elements of the Philosophy of Right*, ed. by Allen Wood (Cambridge University Press)
- PhS *Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit*, trans. by A. V. Miller (Oxford University Press)
- LNR *Lectures on Natural Right and Political Science: The First Philosophy of Right*, trans. by J. M. Stewart and P. C. Hodgson (University of California Press)

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NL      *Natural Law: The Scientific Ways of Treating Natural Law, Its Place  
in Moral Philosophy, and Its Relation to the Positive Sciences of  
Law*, trans. by T. M. Knox (University of Pennsylvania Press)

Note: The quoted passages are my own translations, unless otherwise noted.  
I translated the passages from the *Philosophy of Right*, *The Phenomenology  
of Spirit*, and the “Natural Law” essay with the assistance of those done by  
H. B. Nisbet, A. V. Miller, and T. M. Knox, respectively.