

SENSIBILITY FIRST: HOW TO INTERPRET KANT'S THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL PHILOSOPHY

Robert HANNA¹

When Heidegger, in his phenomenological-metaphysical interpretation of the *Critique of Pure Reason* first publicly presented at Davos and published immediately thereafter as *Kant and the Problem of Metaphysics*, ... reads Kant as arriving (perhaps not fully consciously) at a dissolution of both sensibility and understanding in a “common root” (the transcendental imagination understood as “temporality”), he is turning Kant’s original problematic entirely on its head.²

Kant is sometimes thought of as a cold, dry, rationalist. But he is really an emotional extremist.³

I. INTRODUCTION

In the practical realm just as in the theoretical realm, everything comes down to *human sensibility* as an equally empirical and non-empirical primitive starting point that constitutively motivates, intentionally pervades, and intentionally structures our innately-specified yet also “human, all-too-human” capacities for theoretical and practical rationality, *all the way up*. *Strong Kantian non-conceptualism* says that according to Kant,⁴ the faculty of human intuition or *Anschauung*, that is, human inner and outer sense perception, together with the faculty of imagination or *Einbildungskraft*,⁵ jointly constitute this sensible starting point for objective cognition and theoretical reason; and *strong Kantian non-intellectualism* says that according to Kant, human affect, desire, and moral emotion—in a word, the human *heart*—jointly constitute this sensible starting point for free agency and practical reason. If I’m correct about

<https://doi.org/10.36311/2318-0501.2021.v9n1.p97>

strong Kantian non-conceptualism and strong Kantian non-intellectualism, then the result is a sharply non-classical and unorthodox, hence “shocking,” nevertheless fully unified and textually defensible *Sensibility First* approach to Kant’s proto-Critical philosophy (i.e., from 1768 to 1772), Critical philosophy (i.e., from 1781 to 1787) and post-Critical philosophy (i.e., from the late 1780s to the late 1790s) that encompasses the theoretical philosophy and the practical philosophy alike. Like Heidegger’s radical and equally “shocking” interpretation of the first *Critique* in the late 1920s, the Sensibility First approach thoroughly rejects a conceptualist and intellectualist reading of the Critical (or, for that matter either proto-Critical or post-Critical⁶) philosophy. But unlike Heidegger’s interpretation, the Sensibility First approach does *not*, in Michael Friedman’s words, “seek to [turn] Kant’s original problematic entirely on its head.” On the contrary and instead, the Sensibility First approach seeks to turn classical, orthodox Kant-scholarship entirely on its head by establishing a new interpretation of the Critical philosophy as a whole that fully retains the fundamental distinction between sensibility and understanding—thereby fully retaining the irreducibility of both basic mental faculties or powers of the rational human mind either to one another or to any other faculty or power of the rational human mind—yet also asserts the theoretical and practical *primacy* and *priority* of the sensible and non-intellectual (and more generally, essentially embodied⁷) powers over the discursive and intellectual (and more generally, embodiment-neutral) powers.

By the “essential embodiment” of a human capacity or power, I mean that it’s necessarily and completely located and realized in the living, finite human animal; and by the “embodiment-neutrality” of a human capacity or power, I mean that it’s neither necessarily nor completely located or realized in the living, finite human animal, and possibly altogether distinct from our “human, all-too-human” animal life and finitude. In short, the Sensibility First approach says that human rationality flows from the *groundedness* of our discursive, intellectual, and embodiment-neutral powers in our sensible, non-intellectual, and essentially embodied powers, without in any way reducing the former to the latter.

And not only that: I also believe that the Sensibility First approach to the Critical philosophy as a whole is independently defensible in a contemporary context. So in this way, looking towards the philosophy of the future, I hope finally to win “the Kant wars”⁸ and bring about a lasting philosophical peace on the battlefield of late modern philosophy (i.e., from 1781 right up to this morning at 6 am) by showing that those apparently forever-divided forking streams of classical neo-Kantian philosophy—Analytic philosophy and existential phenomenology—actually have a “common root” in a comprehensive contemporary Kantian doctrine that I call *rational anthropology*.⁹ By contrast, although in *Being and Time* and the existentially- and phenomenologically-motivated writings prior to it, Heidegger rightly emphasized our *finitude*, our *caring*, and our “being-with” or *sociality*,¹⁰ he nevertheless wrongly overlooked what Michelle Maiese and I have called our *essential embodiment*, and, correspondingly, *the mind-body politic*;¹¹ and more generally, in part for tragic political reasons,¹² Heidegger was altogether unable to achieve a conception of philosophy that could overcome the divisions between neo-Kantianism, Analytic philosophy, and existential phenomenology. But where Heidegger altogether failed, rational anthropology can succeed.¹³

II. STRONG KANTIAN NON-CONCEPTUALISM

Let's consider these Kant-texts.

Objects can indeed appear to us without necessarily having to be related to the functions of the understanding. (A89/B122, underlining added)

Appearances could after all be so constituted that the understanding would not find them in accord with the conditions of its unity.... Appearances would nonetheless offer objects to our intuition, for intuition by no means requires the functions of thinking. (A90/B123, underlining added)

That representation which can be given prior to all thinking is called **intuition**. (B132, underlining added)

The manifold for intuition must already be given prior to the synthesis of the understanding and independently from it. (B145, underlining added)

Concept differs from intuition by virtue of the fact that all intuition is singular. He who sees his first tree does not know what it is that he sees. (VL AA 24, p. 905, underlining added)

Until recently, according to the classical, orthodox reading of Kant's theoretical philosophy in general and of his theory of cognition in particular—defended, for example, by Wilfrid Sellars and John McDowell¹⁴—Kant is a *conceptualist*, who believes that the rational human innate capacity for conceptualization and self-conscious propositional thinking, *the understanding* (*Verstand*), strictly determines all the intentional contents of cognition.

But the classical, orthodox standard reading has, since 2005, been seriously challenged by those who argue that, on the contrary, Kant is a *non-conceptualist*¹⁵ who believes that not all the intentional contents of cognition are strictly determined by the understanding, and that at least some of the intentional contents of cognition are strictly determined by the rational human innate capacity for intuition, imagination, and sense perception, i.e., the capacity *for sensibility* (*Sinnlichkeit*), alone, in a non-conceptual, non-self-conscious, non-propositional, and non-inferential way.¹⁶

More specifically then, according to *Kantian non-conceptualism*, Kant is committed to the view that all rational human cognition not only begins in our specifically human sensibility, in the sense that it is triggered into action by worldly causal inputs deriving from empirical sensibility (since that fact can be accommodated by the weaker versions of Kantian conceptualism), but also

(i) it is primitively *grounded on* the fully intentional and not merely causal inputs deriving from empirical sensibility, and

(ii) it is necessarily *limited by* the a priori intentional inputs deriving from the forms of sensibility, the non-empirical representations of space and time.

Or in other words, according to Kantian non-conceptualism, where Kantian theoretical philosophy and Kantian theory of cognition are concerned, they are, in a *constitutive* sense, committed to the Sensibility First thesis.

As it turns out, and as I have implied in the parenthetical remark two sentences above, there are two distinct varieties of Kantian conceptualism and Kantian non-conceptualism respectively: *strong* and *weak*. *Strong Kantian conceptualism* says that the sensibility is explanatorily and ontologically reducible to the understanding.¹⁷ And *weak Kantian conceptualism* says that the sensibility is neither explanatorily nor ontologically reducible to the understanding because sensibility provides an understanding-independent necessary condition for intentional content, whereby sensibility is at least causally required for delivering worldly information to the rational human mind; nevertheless, the sensibility is not *constitutively* involved in intentionality, hence all intentional content is essentially conceptual, even if it's initially presented to the rational human mind by the sensibility in a relatively conceptually-undetermined or conceptually-unarticulated way.¹⁸ By sharp contrast to both kinds of Kantian conceptualism, *strong Kantian non-conceptualism* says that non-conceptual cognitions have an essentially different kind of content from conceptual cognitions, and also that concepts are neither necessary nor sufficient for either the existence or specific character of the content of these cognitions.¹⁹ And *weak Kantian non-conceptualism* says that although some cognitions are such that the subjects of those cognitions do not possess concepts for specifying the contents of those cognitions, nevertheless the contents of those cognitions either really could be or else really are essentially *conceptual*.²⁰

We should notice, particularly, that weak Kantian conceptualism and weak Kantian non-conceptualism are mutually consistent. Indeed, many or even most contemporary weak Kantian *conceptualists*, including recent McDowell, are also explicitly or at least implicitly weak Kantian *non-conceptualists*. In view of these distinctions, I've charitably formulated Kantian conceptualism in a way that is neutral as between strong Kantian conceptualism and weak Kantian conceptualism. Correspondingly, I've also formulated Kantian non-conceptualism as *strong* Kantian non-conceptualism, since that's what I take to be the most defensible version, and have argued for elsewhere in detail and at length.²¹

Now what about non-conceptualism as an independent philosophical thesis *outside* the special context of Kant-interpretation? The thesis of *non-conceptualism* about mental content says that not all mental contents in the intentional or representational acts or states of minded animals are necessarily or constitutively determined by their conceptual capacities, and that at least some mental contents are necessarily or constitutively determined by their non-conceptual capacities.²² Non-conceptualism is sometimes, but not always, combined with the further thesis that non-conceptual capacities and contents can be shared by rational human animals, non-rational human minded animals (and in particular, infants), and non-human minded animals alike. But in any case, non-conceptualism is directly opposed to the thesis of conceptualism about mental content, which says that all mental contents are necessarily or constitutively determined by minded animals' conceptual capacities.²³ Conceptualism is also sometimes, but

not always, combined with the further thesis that the psychological acts or states of infants and non-human minded animals lack mental content. Now in a nutshell, non-conceptualism says

(i) that our cognitive access to the targets of our intentionality is neither always nor necessarily mediated by concepts, nor sufficiently determined (i.e., constituted) by concepts, which is the *concept-independence* of non-conceptual content, and therefore

(ii) that our cognitive access to the targets of our intentionality is sometimes wholly unmediated by concepts, or altogether concept-free, which is the *concept-autonomy* of non-conceptual content.

And conceptualism says

(i) that our cognitive access to the targets of our intentionality is always and necessarily mediated by concepts, and indeed also sufficiently determined or constituted by concepts.

Here, then, are the fundamental philosophical questions that are being asked in the debate about non-conceptual content:

Can we and do we sometimes cognitively encounter other things and ourselves directly and non-discursively, hence non-intellectually or sensibly (non-conceptualism), or must we always cognitively encounter them only within the framework of discursive rationality, hence intellectually or discursively (conceptualism)?

Are we, as rational animals, essentially different from other kinds of animals (conceptualism), or do we share at least some minimally basic mental capacities with all minded animals (non-conceptualism)?

And finally:

Is a thoroughly *Discursivity First* view of the rational human mind as an innately-specified power for cognition that's grounded on embodiment-neutral self-conscious or reflective conceptualization, judgment or propositional thinking, and logical inference (conceptualism) correct, or by sharp contrast, is a thoroughly *Sensibility First* view of the rational "human, all-too-human" mind as a power for cognition that's grounded on essentially embodied non-self-consciously conscious or pre-reflective sense-perception and imagination (including episodic memory²⁴) (non-conceptualism) correct?

Obviously, I think that the Sensibility First view is the correct one.

It is also important to note that whereas conceptualism is of necessity a form of *content-monism*, which says there is one and only kind of intentional or representational content (sometimes, however, combined with *capacity-dualism*, which says that there are two essentially different basic kinds of cognitive capacities), by contrast non-conceptualism can be, and usually is, a form of *content-dualism*, which says that there are two essentially different kinds of intentional or representational content, and if so, then it is always a form of capacity-dualism too. Correspondingly, the version of non-conceptualism that I defend, not only as a matter of Kant-interpretation, but also as an independently defensible thesis in contemporary philosophy, i.e., strong Kantian non-conceptualism, is both content-dualist and capacity-dualist.

As a sub-species of Non-Conceptualism, Strong Kantian Non-Conceptualism is the following three-part doctrine:

- (i) mental acts or states in minded animals have representational content whose semantic structure and psychological function are *essentially distinct* from the structure and function of conceptual content,
- (ii) the specific psychological function of essentially non-conceptual content is to guide conscious intentional desire-driven body movements for the purposes of essentially embodied cognition and practical agency, and
- (iii) the semantic structures of essentially non-conceptual content are equivalent to Kant's spatiotemporal forms of intuition, *including* their representational roles as "formal intuitions" (B136), and also as non-empirical schemata or "mental models" generated by the "figurative synthesis of the imagination" (B151-156 A137-147/B176-187).

More precisely however, according to Strong Kantian Non-Conceptualism, X is an *essentially non-conceptual content of perception* if and only if X is a mental content such that

- (i) X is not a conceptual content, as defined by a defensible, non-question-begging theory of concepts and conceptual content,
- (ii) X is included in an essentially embodied mental state, act, or process that directly refers to some or another causally efficacious actual individual macroscopic material being B in the local or distal natural environment of the minded animal subject of X —and it is also really possible that the minded animal subject of $X = B$ —and thereby both uniquely (if not always perfectly accurately) locates B in 3D Euclidean orientable space and also uniquely (if not always perfectly accurately) tracks B 's thermodynamically asymmetric and temporally irreversible causal activities in time, in order to individuate, normatively guide, and informationally mediate the subject's conscious intentional desire-driven body movements for the purposes of cognitive and practical intentional agency, and
- (iii) X is an inherently context-sensitive, egocentric or first-person-perspectival, spatiotemporally structured content that is not ineffable, but instead shareable or communicable only to the extent that another minded animal ego or first-person is in a cognitive position to be actually directly perceptually confronted by the same causally efficacious actual individual macroscopic material being B in a spacetime possessing the same basic 3D Euclidean orientable, thermodynamically asymmetric, and temporally irreversible structure.

In view of condition (ii), essentially non-conceptual content is inherently normatively governed by an ideal standard of *accurate direct reference for the purposes of location and tracking*, and can still be directly referential even when it is only more-or-less accurate. More accuracy means *better* location and tracking by the conscious subject, and less accuracy means *worse* location and tracking by the conscious subject. So in view of condition (ii), it follows that essentially non-conceptual content fully includes what Hubert Dreyfus calls "the nonconceptual world of absorbed coping," including Heideggerian "concern" and "readiness-to-hand" (that is, normatively engaged, skillful use of tools), Wittgensteinian "blind" involvement in shared practices as "forms of life," and Husserlian "lifeworld" phenomena more generally.

But this set of Heideggerian and Wittgensteinian features of essentially non-conceptual content must *also* be understood, as per the French existential phenomenologists Sartre and

Merleau-Ponty,²⁵ but especially as per Kant, as *also* inherently belonging to a complete and fully unified package of normatively rich, pre-reflectively non-self-consciously conscious content that's inherently poised for guiding the performance of basic intentional actions²⁶ by essentially embodied minded animals—and in this way it is inherently *essentially embodied agential content*.

Here's a simple argument for the existence of essentially non-conceptual perceptual content, that I will call *The Handwaving Argument*. This simple argument anticipates a more complicated, explicit, and rigorously-formulated argument for the same conclusion, using the notion of directly perceivable qualitative three-dimensional material duplicates that are also mirror-reflected spatial counterparts—aka “incongruent counterparts,” or “enantiomorphs,” for example, (slightly idealized versions of) your right and left hands—that I fully spell out and defend elsewhere.²⁷ In any case, The Handwaving Argument is directly inspired by Kant's famous “argument from incongruent counterparts” for the truth of the thesis of the “transcendental ideality” of space and time, according to which space and time are nothing but subjective forms of human sensibility.²⁸ So obviously it has deep Kantian historical roots. Moreover, although I do think that The Handwaving Argument is sound, it's not intended to be rationally *decisive*, because it leaves a lot of important information merely implicit—instead, it's intended to be only rationally *evocative* in the sense that it clearly and quickly illustrates what I have been saying about essentially non-conceptual content.

THE HANDWAVING ARGUMENT

1. Suppose that I am standing right in front of you and saying “All bachelors are males, and all males are animals, so it is analytic that all bachelors are animals, right?”
2. By hypothesis, you are concentrating your thoughts exclusively on what I am saying, and clearly understand it.
3. Suppose also that as I am saying “All bachelors are males,” my arms are held out straight towards you and I am also moving my right hand, rotated at the wrist, in a clockwise circular motion seen clearly from your point of view, which is also a counterclockwise circular motion seen clearly from my point of view.
4. By hypothesis, you are looking at this hand-movement, but *not* also thinking about it, although of course in some *other* context you might be looking at it and *also* thinking about it—yet by hypothesis, not in *this* context.
5. In this context, by hypothesis, you are seeing the movement of my right hand, but *not* also thinking about it, just as when you are driving a car and your mind is fully focused on some train of thought having nothing to do with driving, you can see all sorts of things passing by you, and you can even skillfully drive, without thinking at all about the things that you are seeing or doing.

6. Suppose also that as I am saying, "...and all males are animals," I begin moving my left hand, again rotated at the wrist, in a counterclockwise circular motion seen clearly from your point of view, which is also a clockwise circular motion seen clearly from my point of view.
7. By hypothesis again, you are looking at this hand-movement too, but not *also* thinking about it, although of course in some *other* context you might be looking at it and *also* thinking about it—yet again by hypothesis, not in *this* context.
8. Suppose also that as I am saying, "... so it is analytic that all bachelors are animals, right?" I am moving both hands simultaneously in front of you in the ways specified in steps 3. and 6.
9. Your conceptual capacities are being used by you to concentrate on what I am saying about bachelors, males, and animals, and to understand it clearly, which by hypothesis you do.
10. Insofar as you are using those conceptual capacities exclusively to concentrate on and to understand clearly what I am saying, you are *not* using your conceptual capacities in order to see clearly what I am doing with my hands.
11. Yet you also *see clearly what I am doing with my hands*: your conscious attention in this context is divided into linguistic understanding and lucid vision, but by hypothesis in this context your conceptual capacities for linguistic understanding are neither distracted nor divided.
12. Therefore you *are* using your non-conceptual capacities to see clearly what I am doing with my hands.
13. Now the kind of mental content that individuates, guides, and mediates the use of non-conceptual capacities for the purposes of performing basic intentional actions is *essentially non-conceptual content*.
14. Therefore essentially non-conceptual content really exists.

III. TRANSCENDENTAL IDEALISM FOR SENSIBILITY

Kant discovered the metaphysics of *transcendental idealism* between the publication of his seminal proto-Critical essay of 1768, "Concerning the Ground of the Ultimate Differentiation of Directions in Space" (*DiS* AA 2, pp. 375-383) and 1772. Indeed, the philosophical implications of the "Directions in Space" essay almost certainly triggered the major proto-Critical philosophical breakthrough that Kant famously reports when he says in one of the *Reflexionen* that "the year '69 gave me great light" (*R* 5037, AA 18, p. 69). More precisely, what Kant had discovered between 1768 and 1772 is what I've called *transcendental idealism for sensibility*.²⁹ In 1772, Kant told Marcus Herz that if the human mind conformed to the world, whether phenomenal or noumenal, then a priori knowledge would be impossible

(C AA 10, pp. 130-131). But by 1770 Kant already also held that a priori knowledge of the phenomenal world is actual and therefore really possible, in mathematics. Hence by 1772, Kant holds that the phenomenal world must conform to the non-empirical sensible structure of the human mind, and more specifically, it must conform to our a priori representations of space and time, since that is what makes mathematics really possible (*ID* AA 2, pp. 398-406). So transcendental idealism for sensibility says that the apparent or phenomenal world fundamentally conforms to *the essentially non-conceptual a priori forms of human sensibility*, our representations of space and time.

Kant worked out explicit proofs of transcendental idealism for sensibility in the Inaugural Dissertation and again in the Transcendental Aesthetic in the first *Critique*. The simplest version of the proof, provided in the Transcendental Aesthetic, runs as follows.

TRANSCENDENTAL IDEALISM FOR SENSIBILITY

1. Space and time are

either (1i) things in themselves,

or (1ii) properties of/relations between things in themselves,

or (1iii) transcendently ideal,

and there are no other relevant alternatives.

2. If space and time were either things in themselves or properties of/relations between things in themselves, then a priori mathematical knowledge would be impossible.

3. But mathematical knowledge is actual, via our pure intuitions of space and time, and therefore really possible.

4. Therefore, space and time are transcendently ideal. (A23/B37-38, A38-41/B55-58)

Briefly put, Kant's thesis of transcendental idealism for sensibility says that the basic structure of the apparent or phenomenal world necessarily conforms to the pure or non-empirical (hence a priori) structure of sensible human cognition, and not the converse (B xvi-xviii). Or in other words, Kant is saying that the phenomenal world fundamentally conforms to the a priori sensible structure of the human mind, and it is also *not* the case that the human mind fundamentally conforms to the phenomenal world, or indeed to any non-apparent or *noumenal* world. So if Kant is correct, then he is saying that the world in which we live, move, and have our being (by which I mean the phenomenal natural and social world of our ordinary human existence) is fundamentally dependent on *our* sensible nature, and not the converse. If transcendental idealism for sensibility is true, then we cannot be inherently alienated from the world we are trying to know, as global epistemic skeptics claim, and human knowledge—not only a priori knowledge, but also a posteriori knowledge—is therefore really possible.³⁰

It is especially to be noted that the thesis of transcendent idealism for sensibility holds *logically independently* of the Transcendental Deduction of the Pure Concepts or Categories, and also that therefore transcendent idealism for sensibility can be *true* and the argument for it can be *sound*, even if, as I've argued elsewhere,³¹ *transcendent idealism for the understanding*—i.e., the necessary conformity of the phenomenal world to *our conceptual and logical faculties* (B xvii, A84-130/B116-169)—is *false* and the Transcendental Deduction of the Categories is *unsound*.

IV. STRONG KANTIAN NON-INTELLECTUALISM

Let's now consider these Kant-texts.

The capacity or incapacity of the power of choice/sensible will (*Willkür*) that arises from this natural propensity to adopt or not to adopt the moral law in its maxims can be called *the good or evil heart*. (*Rel AA 6*, p. 29, underlining added)

We betray a culpable degree of moral unbelief if we do not grant sufficient authority to duty's precepts, as originally inscribed in the heart by reason. (*Rel AA 6*, p. 84, underlining added)

Moral faith (*Glaube*) must be a free faith, founded on pure dispositions of the heart (*fides ingenua*). (*Rel AA 6*, p. 115, underlining added)

The highest goal of the moral perfection of finite creatures, never completely attainable by human beings, is, however, the love of the [moral] law. (*Rel AA 6*, p. 145, underlining added)

Correspondingly, here are some fundamental elements of Kant's theory of practical rationality. What Kant calls *practical freedom* is defined in a negative way as the independence of first-order volition, or the "power of choice" (*Willkür*), from necessitation by sensible impulses:

Freedom in the practical sense is the independence of the power of choice (*Willkür*) from **necessitation** by impulses of sensibility. For a power of choice is **sensible** insofar as it is pathologically affected (through moving-causes of sensibility); it is called an animal power of choice (*arbitrium brutum*) if it can be **pathologically necessitated**. The human power of choice is indeed an *arbitrium sensitivum*, yet not *brutum*, but *liberum*, because sensibility does not render its action necessary, but in the human being there is a faculty of determining oneself from oneself, independently of necessitation by sensible impulses. (A534/B562, boldfacing in the original)

But practical freedom, on its positive side, is also necessarily equivalent to the *realization* of Kantian autonomy:

The moral law expresses nothing other than the *autonomy* of pure practical reason, that is, [practical] freedom. (*CPvR AA 5*, p. 33)

More precisely, however, practical freedom, or realized autonomy, is how a transcendently free person actually chooses or does things by means of her subjective experience or consciousness of recognizing the Categorical Imperative or moral law as a desire-overriding, strictly universal, a priori, categorically normative, non-instrumental practical reason that has both motivating and justifying force. And the actual fact of this subjective experience or consciousness of realized autonomous agency is what Kant calls the “Fact of Reason” (*Faktum der Vernunft*) (CPrR AA 5, p. 31; see also pp. 6, 42-43, 47-48, 55-57, 91-94, 104-108).

In the rest of this section, I want to concentrate on *extending* the Sensibility First view from Kant’s and Kantian theoretical philosophy in general and the theory of rational human cognition in particular, to Kant’s and Kantian practical philosophy in general and the theory of rational human practical agency in particular.

According to the classical and standard reading of Kant’s practical philosophy and his theory of practical agency—as defended, for example, by Henry Sidgwick and Christine Korsgaard³²—Kant is an *intellectualist* who believes that the rational human innate capacity for conceptualization and self-conscious thinking, the understanding, necessarily determines all the intentional contents of the will and practical reasoning, whether this is instrumental practical reasoning via the hypothetical imperative, i.e., the *impure* rational will or *Wille*, or non-instrumental practical reasoning via the Categorical Imperative, i.e., the *pure* rational will or *Wille*. Thus Kantian *intellectualism* says that the content of our moral principles is *wholly determined* by our conceptual capacities, and that *all* our specifically morally right actions are motivated, caused, and justified by pure practical reason *alone*. By contrast, Kantian *non-intellectualism* says that the content of our moral principles *isn’t* wholly determined by our conceptual capacities, and that it’s *not* the case that all our morally right actions are motivated, caused, and justified by pure practical reason alone. Moreover, there are strong and weak versions of Kantian intellectualism and non-intellectualism. *Strong Kantian intellectualism*, as per Sidgwick and Korsgaard, says that human emotions are *inconsistent with and excluded by* the content of our moral principles, and that the same goes for the motivations, causes, and justifications of our morally right actions. By contrast, *weak Kantian intellectualism*, as defended by, for example, Maria Borges,³³ says that human emotions *always accompany and inflect* not only the content of our moral principles, but also all our morally right or wrong actions alike, even if those emotions neither belong to or determine the content of those moral principles, nor motivate, cause, and justify morally right actions. On the non-intellectualist side of things, *weak Kantian non-intellectualism* (also called “Kantian affectivism”) says that human emotions have *irreducible* content that *necessarily belongs* to the content of all our moral principles and of all our right or wrong actions alike, and that at least some of our morally right actions are motivated, caused, and justified by these desires, feelings, and emotions, in conjunction with pure practical reason.³⁴ By contrast, *strong Kantian non-intellectualism* says that human emotions have irreducible *essentially non-conceptual* content that *partially constitutes and grounds* the content of all our moral principles and of our right or wrong actions alike, that all our morally right actions are, exactly to that partially-constituted-and-grounded extent,

motivated, caused, and justified by these emotions, and that these emotions and their content therefore *belong to the essence* of pure practical reason itself.

Q: What is so philosophically important about these fine-grained distinctions?

A: They identify fundamentally different conceptions of rational human nature. Strong intellectualism is a version of *Cartesian dualism*; weak intellectualism in effect expresses Elisabeth of Bohemia's and Pascal's *mitigated Cartesianism*; weak non-intellectualism is *non-dualist*; and strong non-intellectualism entails that our conscious, caring, perceiving, thinking, rational minds are *essentially embodied*.

One fundamental thing to recognize here is that all Kantian intellectualists about practical intentional content are *also*, perforce, defenders of *Kantian conceptualism*, because representational contents of the sorts captured by judgments in the Kantian sense³⁵—whether directly referential contents, conceptual contents, propositional contents, or formal-logical contents—are all essentially the same sorts of contents, whether in the context of theoretical judgments and theoretical inferences or in the context of practical judgments and practical inferences. Hence if, as I believe, strong Kantian non-conceptualism is true, then Kantian intellectualism is false from the get-go. By sharp contrast to Kantian intellectualism, then, what I want to argue in the rest of this section is that Kant is a *strong non-intellectualist* who believes

- (i) that *not all* of the intentional contents of practical reasoning and the rational will, whether instrumental or non-instrumental, are necessarily determined or constituted by the understanding, and
- (ii) that *at least some* of the intentional contents of practical reasoning, both instrumental and non-instrumental alike, are necessarily determined or constituted by the rational human innate capacity for sensibility in a practical sense, in an essentially non-conceptual, non-self-conscious, non-propositional, and non-inferential way.

This capacity for practical sensibility includes the affective sub-capacities for conation, desire, emotion, and feeling, as well as the power of choice, the sensible will, or *Willkür*—in effect, it is nothing more and nothing less than the human heart. So Kantian non-intellectualism says that free choice and autonomous willing *can come straight from the human heart*. Or as Kant himself puts it in the first Kant-text I quoted in this section:

The capacity or incapacity of the power of choice/sensible will (*Willkür*) that arises from this natural propensity to adopt or not to adopt the moral law in its maxims can be called *the good or evil heart*. (*Rel AA 6*, p. 29, underlining added)

It is also particularly to be noted that strong Kantian non-intellectualism includes, but is not restricted to, the weak non-intellectualist, aka affectivist, interpretation of Kant's theory of moral motivation. This is because strong Kantian non-intellectualism, as I am formulating and defending it, is not *merely* the thesis that our rational human affective capacities can directly

motivate free choice and autonomous moral agency (= weak Kantian non-intellectualism, aka affectivism), but instead the *two*-part thesis

- (i) that our rational human affective capacities can directly motivate free choice and autonomous willing (= weak Kantian non-intellectualism, aka affectivism), and
- (ii) that our human affective capacities can directly motivate free choice and autonomous willing *only insofar as* they necessarily determine the intentional contents of practical reasoning and the rational will in an essentially non-conceptual, non-self-conscious, non-propositional, and non-inferential way (= strong Kantian non-conceptualism as applied to Kant's theory of practical agency).

In this way, strong Kantian non-intellectualism as I am formulating it is the conjunction of weak non-intellectualism, aka affectivism, and strong Kantian non-conceptualism *as applied to Kant's theory of practical agency*. Or in other words, according to strong Kantian non-intellectualism, free choice and autonomous willing can come not only from the human heart, and not from the head, understanding, or intellect, but also, insofar as they *do* come from the human heart, only *straight* from the heart, and not indirectly mediated by concepts, self-conscious deliberation, propositional reasons, or inferences.

Fully explicitly and specifically then, according to strong Kantian non-intellectualism, all rational human practical and moral action not only begins in our specifically human sensibility (since that can be accommodated by the weaker versions of Kantian conceptualism and Kantian intellectualism alike, according to which sensibility is a causally necessary but non-constitutive condition of cognitive intentionality or practical intentionality³⁶), but also

- (i) all rational human practical and moral action is primitively *grounded on* the first-order essentially non-conceptual, non-self-conscious, non-propositional, and non-inferential affective intentional inputs deriving from empirical conation, desire, emotions, feeling, and choice/sensible willing, and
- (ii) all rational human practical and moral action is necessarily *limited by* the higher-order essentially non-conceptual, non-self-conscious, non-propositional, and non-inferential affective intentional inputs deriving from the non-empirical so-called "Fact of Reason" or *Faktum der Vernunft* (CPrR AA 5, p. 31; see also pp. 6, 42-43, 47-48, 55-57, 91-94, 104-108), which, in turn is
- (iii) essentially the conscious manifestation of a capacity for *loving* the moral law that is innately *inscribed* in the human heart (*Rel* AA 6, pp. 84, 145).

According to strong Kantian non-intellectualism, then, The Fact of Reason is merely "so-called," because it would be far more appropriately called *The Affect of Reason*, insofar as it is most accurately construed as a conscious manifestation of higher-order, essentially non-conceptual, non-self-conscious, non-propositional, non-inferential conation, desire, emotion,

and feeling (aka the affects). More precisely, The Fact/Affect of Reason is fundamentally expressed as the higher-order, essentially non-conceptual, non-self-conscious, non-propositional, non-inferential, and also specifically moral, affects of

- (i) “respect” or *Achtung*, and
- (ii) “self-fulfillment” or *Selbstzufriedenheit*,

both of which in turn are specifically moral conscious manifestations of what I will call *the desire for self-transcendence*. According to this strong Kantian non-intellectualist account, the desire for self-transcendence is nothing more and nothing less than *the fundamental higher-order desire to be moved to choice and action by non-egoistic, non-hedonistic, non-consequentialist first-order desires*. In turn, the desire for self-transcendence, consciously manifested as the higher-order, essentially non-conceptual, non-self-conscious, and non-propositional affect of *respect*, that is, a love of the moral law that is innately inscribed in the human heart, “is properly the representation of a worth that infringes upon my self-love (*Eigenliebe*)” (*GMM AA 4*, p. 402n.). Correspondingly, the directly-referential object or target of that representation is the moral law, namely, the Categorical Imperative, innately specified in the hearts of human persons, who inherently possess the absolute intrinsic non-denumerable objective moral value of dignity, and are inherently capable of transcendental and practical freedom. Therefore, that target

is at the same time an object of *respect* inasmuch as ... it *weakens* self-inflation (*Eigendünkel*); and inasmuch as it even *strikes down* self-inflation, that is, humiliates it, it is an object of the greatest *respect* and so too the ground of a positive feeling that is not of empirical origin and is cognized a priori. (*CPrRAA 5*, p. 73)

In other words, *morally true* love overcomes *self-love*. And in this way, via the higher-order essentially non-conceptual, non-self-conscious, non-propositional, and non-inferential feeling of respect, the desire for self-transcendence directly opposes both “self-love” or *Eigenliebe* (roughly, narcissism) and also “self-inflation” or *Eigendünkel* (roughly, selfishness), which is to say that it directly opposes human *egoism* in all its forms.³⁷

An essential feature of the higher-order desire for self-transcendence is that it can robustly manifest itself not only in morally *right* choice and action (as the higher-order, essentially non-conceptual, non-self-conscious, non-propositional, and non-inferential affects of respect and self-fulfillment), but also in morally *wrong* choice and action, even to the point of unmitigated evil and wickedness. At this point, paradoxically, the desire for self-transcendence, as the higher-order desire that inherently opposes first-order willing that is egoistic, hedonistic, or consequentialist, can turn into its dialectical opposites, self-love or narcissism and self-inflation or selfishness, by becoming the monstrous narcissism and selfishness of Hume’s fictional person who would allow the whole world and everyone in it, including himself, to be destroyed just so that he could avoid having his finger scratched,³⁸ and also of Milton’s fictional fallen angel, Satan, who chillingly says:

So farewell, hope; and with hope farewell, fear; Farewell, remorse! all good to me is lost; Evil, be thou my good.³⁹

Now I do not mean to say that any actual or possible rational human animal could ever be *wholly* Satanic—indeed, Kant explicitly rejects this (*Rel AA 6*, p.35), and I completely agree—but rather only that some rational human choices and acts really are *near*-Satanic, and also that some people have characters that really are near-Satanic. Outside of Miltonic poetic fiction and in the real world, the “human, all too human” capacity for freely choosing the bad and the wrong, whether *as-bad-and-wrong*, or seemingly *as-good-and-right*, is what Augustine calls “the perversity of the will,”⁴⁰ and what Kant, clearly following Augustine, calls “the perversity of the human heart” (*Rel AA 6*, pp. 30, 37). In view of Kant’s full recognition of the perversity of the will/the human heart, then,

- (i) the fact that near-satanic, monstrous narcissism and selfishness are humanly actual and really possible (for example, Hitler and Stalin), together with
- (ii) the all-too-familiar fact of everyday self-love/narcissism and self-inflation/selfishness, then
- (iii) collectively yield the dual fact of what Kant calls *radical evil* (*Rel AA 6*, pp. 18-33).

Radical evil, the perversity of the human will or heart, is the fully natural and “human, all too human” disposition, tendency, or *Gesinnung*, towards freely-chosen *moral disvalue or wrongness*, whose fundamental cause is human egoism in all its forms.

In this connection, it’s crucially important to note that according to the strong Kantian non-intellectualist scheme of moral rational normativity that I’m presenting here, there are two fundamentally different kinds of moral disvalue or wrongness (which is the same as Kant’s “radical evil”—hence my use of the term “evil,” aka *Böse*, is narrower than Kant’s own use of that term):

- (i) *moral evil*, which is choice or action involving the intentional violation of people’s dignity, that is, considering or treating them like things, like mere instruments, or, even worse, like garbage or offal, and
- (ii) *non-evil moral badness*, aka *das Übel*, aka *schlecht*, which is the non-evil *privation*, or falling-short-of, ideal or high-bar good, for example, in choices or acts involving benevolence or kindness to others, or sensitivity to their needs, and the related thought that “we can never do enough to help others.”

More precisely, according to the strong Kantian non-intellectualist scheme of moral rational normativity, moral evil and moral badness are inherently *lexically ordered* in relation to moral disvalue or wrongness. Clearly, moral disvalue or wrongness, just like moral value or rightness, always comes in degrees: morally wrong choices and acts are always more or less

so, just as morally right choices and acts are. Other things being equal, for example, it's much worse literally to stab someone with the intention of murdering them, than it is merely to say "cutting" things to her with the intention of hurting their feelings. But according to this lexical ordering between moral evil and non-evil moral badness, even the least case of real moral evil is fundamentally worse than even the greatest case of real non-evil moral badness. The person who rejoices in the suffering of another, or who acts specifically in order to make someone else suffer, is fundamentally worse than even the biggest con artist, embezzler, or thief that you can think of, although obviously the utilitarian bad consequences of the latter's choices and acts can massively outweigh those of the former. Again, it's one morally disvalued thing to fall short of the best you can be, for example, as regards benevolence and kindness to others, and sensitivity to their needs (moral badness), but radically another to violate people's dignity (moral evil). Non-evil morally bad choices and acts are all about human imperfection and weakness, that is, being "human, all too human," whereas evil choices or acts strike at the heart of human real personhood itself.

It's also very important to note that, corresponding to the overarching normative distinction between moral evil and non-evil moral badness, under the same rubric of moral evil, there are in fact two sharply different further sub-kinds of moral evil:

- (i1) *near-Satanic evil*, that is, evil chosen or done for its own sake, whatever the consequences, as the result of *titanic egoism*—for example, Hitler, and
- (i2) *banal evil*, that is, evil chosen or done for merely self-interested reasons (aka "banal egoism"), for hedonistic reasons, or for consequentialist reasons—for example, the choices and acts of Adolf Eichmann, aka "the man in the glass booth," as per Hannah Arendt's famous moral analysis of the Eichmann trial in 1961.⁴¹

Arendt's basic (and, I think, ultimately Kantian non-intellectualist) point, with which I also completely agree, is that on the assumption that we hold the stunning general fact of the moral horror of Nazism temporarily fixed for the purposes of some further moral reflection, there is *still* an intrinsic moral difference between Hitler's kind of evil and (Arendt's) Eichmann's kind of evil.

By way of wrapping up this section, I want to emphasize that the strong Kantian non-intellectualist approach to Kant's theory of practical reason that I am presenting here will doubtless come as a *great surprise* to many philosophers and non-philosophers alike, who regard Kant as the Puritanical enemy of all human affect, conations, desires, emotions, and feelings. Indeed, as Ido Geiger aptly notes in a slightly different but still closely-related connection,

[t]his must come as a great surprise to those readers who take the caricature of Kant as the mortal enemy of all human feelings to be a realistic portrait of his views.⁴²

In other words, contrary to the classical, orthodox interpretation of Kant's ethics and theory of practical agency that locates the ground of all wrong choice and action in affect,

conation, desire, emotion, and feeling—that is, in practical *sensibility*—in fact, according to Kant in *Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason* (and according to me, also), it's *human egoism* that is “the root of all evil,” in the broad sense that it is the motivational ground of what I am calling “moral evil” (whether near-Satanic or banal) and of “non-evil moral badness” alike, by virtue of its being the ultimate source of what Kant calls our “self-incurred perversity” of the will. Indeed, for Kant in *Religion*,

[c]onsidered in themselves natural inclinations are good, i.e., not reprehensible, and to want to extirpate them would not only be futile but harmful and blameworthy as well (*Rel AA 6*, p. 58, underlining added),

and

there is absolutely no salvation for human beings except in the innermost adoption of genuine moral principles in their disposition, [and] . . . to interfere with this adoption is surely the not so often blamed sensibility but a self-incurred perversity or, as we might otherwise also call this wickedness, fraud (*fausseté*, the satanic guile through which evil comes into the world): [this is] a corruption that lies in all human beings and cannot be overcome except through the idea of the moral good in its absolute purity. (*Rel AA 6*, p. 83, underlining added)

Part of this bears repeating because it might otherwise seem so “shockingly” unKantian as to cloud philosophical recognition of its actually being what Kant is asserting:

[c]onsidered in themselves natural inclinations are good, i.e., not reprehensible, and to want to extirpate them would not only be futile but harmful and blameworthy as well (*Rel AA 6*, p. 58, underlining added).

Considered in themselves, natural inclinations are good! Therefore, in his all-things-considered post-Critical ethical theory circa 1792 (the year of the publication of the first edition of *Religion*), Kant is *not* a philosophical enemy of practical sensibility. On the contrary, he's explicitly a philosophical enemy of those who are philosophical enemies of practical sensibility.

According to Kant's considered post-Critical view, then, he is no more an enemy of practical sensibility than he is an enemy of cognitive sensibility. On the contrary: Kant's post-Critical theoretical and practical philosophy consistently and globally puts *sensibility first*. This in turn means that not only the classical, orthodox (strong or weak) intellectualist reading of Kant's theory of practical agency, but also the classical anti-Kantian critique of Kant's theory of practical agency as based on “empty formalism” and as sternly and unrealistically rigorist, are equally misguided.⁴³ Indeed, Kantian ethics, properly understood, and “the ethics of care,” properly understood, *are one*. Correspondingly, and perhaps most surprisingly of all, *pure* practical sensibility, that is, *moral* sensibility—epitomized as The Fact/Affect of Reason, that is, the feeling of respect, that is, the true love for the moral law that is inscribed in the human heart, and self-fulfillment—is the Kantian motivational ground of radical goodness. And that, in turn, brings out the core of truth in Derek Parfit's contrarian observation, quoted as the second

epigraph of this essay, that Kant is an “emotional extremist.” Parfit intends this to be a serious criticism of Kant’s theory of our practical rationality: *contrariwise to Parfit’s contrarianism*, I’m taking it to be the essence and greatest strength of Kantian strong non-intellectualism.

V. TWO CONCLUSIONS

Admittedly, what I have argued and asserted in sections I to IV adds up to a sharply non-classical and unorthodox, hence “shocking,” interpretation of Kant’s theoretical and practical philosophy.

Nevertheless, its merely being “shocking,” on its own, is *not* a good reason not to take it seriously or assert it; hence, not only taking this “shocking” interpretation seriously but also asserting it, I want to draw two conclusions.

First, I think that the best overall reading of Kant’s proto-Critical, Critical, and post-Critical philosophy of mind, metaphysics, and epistemology, and also his practical and moral philosophy alike, is the Sensibility First reading.

And **second**, now quite independently of issues of Kant-interpretation, I think that the Sensibility First approach to human theoretical and practical rationality is objectively true.

ABSTRACT: In the practical realm just as in the theoretical realm, everything comes down to *human sensibility* as an equally empirical and non-empirical primitive starting point that constitutively motivates, intentionally pervades, and intentionally structures our innately-specified yet also “human, all-too-human” capacities for theoretical and practical rationality, *all the way up*. *Strong Kantian non-conceptualism* says that according to Kant, the faculty of human intuition or *Anschauung*, that is, human inner and outer sense perception, together with the faculty of imagination or *Einbildungskraft*, jointly constitute this sensible starting point for objective cognition and theoretical reason; and *Kantian non-intellectualism* says that according to Kant, human affect, desire, and moral emotion—in a word, the human *heart*—jointly constitute this sensible starting point for free agency and practical reason. Conjoined, they provide what I call the *Sensibility First* approach, which, in a nutshell, says that human rationality flows from the *groundedness* of our discursive, intellectual, and embodiment-neutral powers in our sensible, non-intellectual, and essentially embodied powers, without in any way reducing the former to the latter. If I’m correct about all this, then the result is a sharply non-classical and unorthodox, hence “shocking,” nevertheless fully unified and textually defensible approach to Kant’s proto-Critical philosophy (i.e., from 1768 to 1772), Critical philosophy (i.e., from 1781 to 1787) and post-Critical philosophy (i.e., from the late 1780s to the late 1790s) that encompasses his theoretical philosophy and the practical philosophy alike.

KEYWORDS: Kant, theoretical philosophy, practical philosophy, sensibility, non-conceptualism, non-intellectualism

REFERENCES

- Abela, P., *Kant’s Empirical Realism*, Oxford, Clarendon/Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Allais, L., “Non-Conceptual Content and the Representation of Space,” *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, 47, 2009, pp. 383–413.
- Arendt, H., *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil*, revised & enlarged edn., Harmondsworth, Middlesex, UK, Penguin, 1977.
- Augustine, *Confessions*, trans. R.S. Pine-Coffin, Harmondsworth, Middlesex UK, Penguin, 1961.

- Bauer, N, "A Peculiar Intuition: Kant's Conceptualist Account of Perception," *Inquiry*, 55, 2012, 215–237.
- Bermúdez, J. and Cahen, A., "Nonconceptual Mental Content," in E.N. Zalta (ed.), *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, Summer 2020 Edition, available online at URL = <<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/sum2020/entries/content-nonconceptual/>>.
- Bowman, B., "A Conceptualist Reply to Hanna's Kantian Non-Conceptualism," *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*, 19, 2011, pp. 417–446.
- Brewer, B., *Perception and Reason*, Oxford, Oxford Univ. Press, 1999.
- Crowell, S., *Normativity and Phenomenology in Husserl and Heidegger*, Cambridge, Cambridge Univ. Press, 2013.
- Dreyfus, H., "The Myth of the Pervasiveness of the Mental," in Schear (ed.), *Mind, Reason, and Being in the World*, pp. 15-40.
- Evans, G., *Varieties of Reference*, Oxford, Clarendon/Oxford Univ. Press, 1982.
- Friedman, M., *A Parting of the Ways: Carnap, Cassirer, and Heidegger*, Chicago and Lasalle, IL: Open Court, 2000.
- Geiger, I., "Rational Feelings and Moral Agency," *Kantian Review*, 16, 2011, pp. 283-308
- Ginsborg, H., "Empirical Concepts and the Content of Experience," *European Journal of Philosophy*, 14, 2006, pp. 349–372.
- _____, "Was Kant a Nonconceptualist?," *Philosophical Studies*, 137, 2008, 65–77.
- Golob, S., "Kant on Intentionality, Magnitude, and the Unity of Perception," *European Journal of Philosophy*, 22, 2014, pp. 505-528.
- Griffith, A., "Perception and the Categories: A Conceptualist Reading of *Kant's Critique of Pure Reason*," *European Journal of Philosophy*, 20, 2012, pp. 193–222.
- Grüne, S., *Blinde Anschauung: Die Rolle von Begriffen in Kants Theorie sinnlicher Synthesis*, Frankfurt am Main, Klostermann, 2009.
- Guevara, D., *Kant's Theory of Moral Motivation*, Boulder, CO, Westview Press, 2000.
- Gunther, Y. (ed.), *Essays on Nonconceptual Content*, Cambridge, MIT Press, 2003.
- Hanna, R., "Kant and Nonconceptual Content," *European Journal of Philosophy*, 13, 2005, pp. 247–290.
- _____, *Kant, Science, and Human Nature*, Oxford, Clarendon/Oxford Univ. Press, 2006.
- _____, "Kantian Non-Conceptualism," *Philosophical Studies*, 137, 2008, pp. 41–64.
- _____, "Beyond the Myth of the Myth: A Kantian Theory of Non-Conceptual Content," *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*, 19, 2011a, 323–398.
- _____, "Kant's Non-Conceptualism, Rogue Objects, and the Gap in the B Deduction," *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*, 19, 2011b, pp. 397-413.
- _____, *Cognition, Content, and the A Priori: A Study in the Philosophy of Mind and Knowledge*, THE RATIONAL HUMAN CONDITION, Vol. 5, Oxford, Oxford Univ. Press, 2015.
- _____, "Directions in Space, Non-Conceptual Form, and the Foundations of Transcendental Idealism," in Schulting (ed.), 2016a, pp. 99-115.

_____, “Kantian Madness: Blind Intuitions, Essentially Rogue Objects, Nomological Deviance, and Categorical Anarchy,” *Contemporary Studies in Kantian Philosophy*, 1, 2016b, pp. 44-64, available online at URL = <<http://www.cckp.space/#!Kantian-Madness-Blind-Intuitions-Essentially-Rogue-Objects-Nomological-Deviance-and-Categorical-Anarchy/cmbz/576018190cf2c6c572641509>>.

_____, “Kant’s Theory of Judgment,” in E.N. Zalta (ed), *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, Winter 2017a Edition, available online at URL = <<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2017/entries/kant-judgment/>>.

_____, “Life-Changing Metaphysics: Rational Anthropology and its Kantian Methodology,” in G. D’Oro and S. Overgaard (eds.), *The Cambridge Companion to Philosophical Methodology*, Cambridge, Cambridge Univ. Press, 2017b, pp. 201-226.

_____, *Preface and General Introduction, Supplementary Essays, and General Bibliography*, THE RATIONAL HUMAN CONDITION, Vol. 1, New York, Nova Science, 2018a.

_____, *Deep Freedom and Real Persons: A Study in Metaphysics*, THE RATIONAL HUMAN CONDITION, Vol. 2, New York, Nova Science, 2018b.

_____, *Kantian Ethics and Human Existence: A Study in Moral Philosophy*, THE RATIONAL HUMAN CONDITION, Vol. 3, New York, Nova Science, 2018c.

_____, *Kant, Agnosticism, and Anarchism: A Theological-Political Treatise*, THE RATIONAL HUMAN CONDITION, Vol. 4, New York, Nova Science, 2018d.

_____, “How to Mind the Gaps: On Oliver Thorndyke’s Kant’s Transition Project and Late Philosophy,” *Critique*, 2018e, also available online in preview at URL = <https://www.academia.edu/37263683/How_to_Mind_the_Gaps_On_Oliver_Thorndykes_Kants_Transition_Project_and_Late_Philosophy_Critique_2018_>.

_____, “The Essential Non-Conceptuality of the Imagination,” *Contemporary Studies in Kantian Philosophy*, 5, 2020a, pp. 53-72, available online at URL = <<https://www.cckp.space/single-post/2020/06/15/CSKP5-2020-The-Essential-Non-Conceptuality-of-the-Imagination>>.

_____, “The Kant Wars and The Three Faces of Kant,” *Contemporary Studies in Kantian Philosophy*, 5, 2020b, pp. 73-94, available online at URL = <<https://www.cckp.space/single-post/2020/06/15/CSKP5-2020-The-Kant-Wars-and-The-Three-Faces-of-Kant>>.

_____, “The Debate About Non-Conceptual Content Revisited: On Corijn van Mazijk’s *Perception and Reality in Kant, Husserl, and McDowell*,” *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*, 29, 2021a, pp 90-115, available online at URL = <<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09672559.2021.1873543>>.

_____, “Our Sociable Sociality: A Postscript to *The Mind-Body Politic*,” *Borderless Philosophy*, 4, 2021b, forthcoming, also available online in preview at URL = <https://www.academia.edu/45570719/Our_Sociable_Sociality_A_Postscript_to_The_Mind_Body_Politic_Final_draft_version_March_2021_>.

Heidemann, D. (ed.), *Kant and Non-Conceptual Content*, London, Routledge, 2013.

Hume, D., *Treatise of Human Nature*, 2nd edn., Oxford, Clarendon/Oxford Univ. Press, 1978.

Korsgaard, C., *Creating the Kingdom of Ends*, Cambridge, Cambridge Univ. Press, 1996a.

_____, *The Sources of Normativity*, Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1996b.

_____, *Self-Constitution: Agency, Identity, and Integrity*, Oxford, Oxford Univ. Press, 2009.

- Land, T., “Kantian Conceptualism,” in G. Abel et al. (eds.), *Rethinking Epistemology*, Berlin, DeGruyter, 2011, pp. 197–239.
- Laiho, H., *Perception in Kant’s Model of Experience*, PhD dissertation, Turku, Univ. of Turku, 2012.
- Maiese, M. and Hanna, R., *The Mind-Body Politic*, London, Palgrave Macmillan, 2019.
- McCarty, R., “Kantian Moral Motivation and the Feeling of Respect,” *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, 31, 1993, pp. 421-435
- _____, “Motivation and Moral Choice in Kant’s Theory of Rational Agency,” *Kant-Studien*, 85, 1994, pp. 15-31.
- McLear, C., “Two Kinds of Unity in the Critique of Pure Reason,” *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, 53, 2015, pp. 79-110.
- _____, “The Kantian (Non-)Conceptualism Debate,” *Philosophy Compass*, 9, 2014, pp. 769-790.
- McDowell, J., *Mind and World.*, Cambridge, MA, Harvard Univ. Press, 1994.
- _____, “Avoiding the Myth of the Given,” in J. McDowell, *Having the World in View*, Cambridge, MA, Harvard Univ. Press, 2009, pp. 256–272.
- _____, “The Myth of the Mind as Detached,” in Schear (ed.), 2013, pp. 41–58.
- Milton, J., “Paradise Lost,” In J. Milton, *The Poems of John Milton*, 2nd edn, New York, Ronald Press, 1953, pp. 204-487.
- Parfit, D., *On What Matters*, 2 vols., Oxford, Oxford Univ. Press, 2011.
- Pippin, R., “What is ‘Conceptual Activity?’,” in Schear (ed.), 2013, pp. 91–109.
- Rohs, P., “Bezieht sich nach Kant die Anschauung unmittelbar auf Gegenstände?,” *Akte des IX. Internationalen Kant-Kongresses*, Vol. II, Berlin, De Gruyter, 2001.
- Russell, J. and Hanna, R., “A Minimalist Approach to the Development of Episodic Memory,” *Mind and Language*, 27, 2012, 29-54.
- Schear, J. (ed.), *Mind, Reason, and Being-in-the-World: The McDowell-Dreyfus Debate*, London, Routledge, 2013.
- Shell, S.M., *The Embodiment of Reason: Kant on Spirit, Generation, and Community*, Chicago, IL, Univ. of Chicago Press, 1996.
- Schulting, D. (ed.), *Kantian Nonconceptualism*, London, Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.
- Sedivy, S., “Must Conceptually Informed Perceptual Experience Involve Non-conceptual Content?,” *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, 26, 1996, pp. 413-431.
- Sellars, W., “Empiricism and the Philosophy of Mind,” in W. Sellars, *Science, Perception, and Reality*, New York, Humanities Press, 1963, pp. 127–196.
- _____, *Science and Metaphysics: Variations on Kantian Themes.*, London, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1968.
- Sidgwick, H., *The Methods of Ethics*, London, Macmillan, 1907.
- Slote, M., *From Enlightenment to Receptivity: Rethinking our Values*. Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 2013.
- Sluga, H., *Heidegger’s Crisis: Philosophy and Politics in Nazi German*, Cambridge, MA, Harvard Univ. Press, 1993.

Tolley, C., “The Non-Conceptuality of the Content of Intuitions: A New Approach,” *Kantian Review*, 18, 2013, pp. 107–136.

van Mazijk, C., “Why Kant Is a Non-Conceptualist But Is Better Regarded a Conceptualist,” *Kant Studies Online*, 2014, pp. 170–200.

Ware, O., “Self-Love and Self-Conceit in Kant’s Moral Psychology,” Unpublished MS, 2013.

_____, “Kant on Moral Sensibility and Moral Motivation,” *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, 52, 2014, pp. 727–746.

Wenzel, C., “Spielen nach Kant die Kategorien schon bei der Wahrnehmung eine Rolle?,” *Kant-Studien*, 96, 2005, pp. 407–426.

Willams, J., “How Conceptually-Guided are Kantian Intuitions?,” *History of Philosophy Quarterly*, 29, 2012, pp. 57–78.

Wuerth, J., “Sense and Sensibility in Kant’s Practical Agent: Against the Intellectualism of Korsgaard and Sidgwick,” *European Journal of Philosophy*, 21, 2013, pp. 1–36.

_____, *Kant on Mind, Action, and Ethics*, Oxford, Oxford Univ. Press, 2014.

NOTES

1 Robert Hanna has held research or teaching positions at the University of Cambridge UK, the University of Colorado at Boulder USA, the University of Luxembourg LU, PUC-PR Brazil, Yale, and York University CA. Currently, he’s an independent philosopher, Co-Director of the online philosophy mega-project Philosophy Without Borders, and Director of The Contemporary Kantian Philosophy Project. Philosophically, he’s a resolute generalist, and has authored or co-authored 150+ articles (including book reviews), and eleven books, including *Kant and the Foundations of Analytic Philosophy* (OUP, 2001), *Kant, Science, and Human Nature* (OUP, 2006), *Rationality and Logic* (MIT, 2006), *Embodied Minds in Action* (co-authored with M. Maiese, OUP, 2009), *In Defense of Intuitions: A New Rationalist Manifesto* (co-authored with A. Chapman, A. Ellis, T. Hildebrand, and H. Pickford, Palgrave Macmillan, 2013), *Cognition, Content, and the A Priori* (OUP, 2015), the first four volumes of THE RATIONAL HUMAN CONDITION—including the *Preface and General Introduction* (Nova Science, 2018), *Deep Freedom and Real Persons* (Nova Science, 2018), *Kantian Ethics and Human Existence* (Nova Science, 2018), and *Kant, Agnosticism, and Anarchism* (Nova Science, 2018)—and *The Mind-Body Politic* (co-authored with Michelle Maiese (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019)). His new book, *The Fate of Analysis: Analytic Philosophy From Frege to The Ash-Heap of History, and Toward a Radical Kantian Philosophy of the Future*, is forthcoming in 2021.

2 Friedman, 2000, p. 61.

3 Parfit, 2011, vol. 1, p. xlv.

4 For convenience, I refer to Kant’s works internally, that is, infratextually in parentheses. The citations include both an abbreviation of the English title and also the corresponding volume and page numbers in the standard “Akademie” edition of Kant’s works: *Kants gesammelte Schriften*, edited by the Königlich Preussischen (now Deutschen) Akademie der Wissenschaften (Berlin: G. Reimer [now de Gruyter], 1902). For references to the first *Critique*, I follow the common practice of giving page numbers from the A (1781) and B (1787) German editions only. Because the Akademie edition (= AA) contains only the B edition of the first *Critique*, I’ve also consulted the following German composite edition: *Kritik der reinen Vernunft*, ed. W. Weischedel, Immanuel Kant Werkausgabe III (Frankfurt: Suhrkamp, 1968). For references to Kant’s *Reflexionen*, i.e., entries in *Kants handschriftliche Nachlaß*—which I abbreviate as ‘R’—I give the entry number in addition to the Akademie volume and page numbers. The translations from the *Reflexionen* are my own. I generally follow the standard English translations of the German texts, but have occasionally modified them where appropriate. Here’s a list of the abbreviations and English translations of the works cited.

C *Immanuel Kant: Correspondence 1759–99*, trans. A. Zweig, Cambridge, Cambridge Univ. Press, 1999.

CPR *Critique of Pure Reason*, trans. P. Guyer and A. Wood, Cambridge, Cambridge Univ. Press, 1997.

CPPr *Critique of Practical Reason*, trans. M. Gregor, in I. Kant, *Immanuel Kant: Practical Philosophy*, Cambridge, Cambridge Univ. Press, 1996, pp. 133–272.

DiS “Concerning the Ultimate Ground of the Differentiation of Directions in Space,” trans. D. Walford and R. Meerbote, in I. Kant, *Immanuel Kant: Theoretical Philosophy: 1755–1770*, Cambridge, Cambridge Univ. Press, 1992, pp. 365–372.

- GMM* *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, trans. M. Gregor, in Kant, 1996, pp. 37-108.
- ID* “On the Form and Principles of the Sensible and Intelligible World (Inaugural Dissertation),” in Kant, 1992, pp. 373-416.
- Rel* *Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason*, trans. A. Wood and G. di Giovanni, Cambridge, Cambridge Univ. Press, 1998.
- VL* “The Vienna Logic,” trans. J. M. Young, in I. Kant, *Immanuel Kant: Lectures on Logic*, Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1992, pp. 251-377.
- 5 See Hanna, 2020a.
- 6 See Hanna, 2018e.
- 7 See, e.g., Hanna and Maiese, 2009.
- 8 Hanna, 2020b.
- 9 See Hanna, 2018a, 2018b, 2018c, 2018d, and 2015.
- 10 Hanna, 2021b.
- 11 See Maiese and Hanna, 2019.
- 12 See, e.g., Sluga, 1993.
- 13 See Hanna, 2020b; and Hanna, 2017b.
- 14 See, e.g., Sellars, 1963; Sellars, 1968; and McDowell, 1994.
- 15 See, e.g., Hanna, 2005; Hanna, 2006, ch. 2; Hanna, 2008; Allais, 2009; Hanna, 2011a; Hanna, 2015, esp. chs. 2-3; and Hanna, 2021a
- 16 For a general survey of the Kantian conceptualism vs. Kantian non-conceptualism debate up to 2014, see McLear, 2014. For in-depth studies of various aspects of that phase of the debate, see Heidemann (ed.), 2013; and also Schulting (ed.), 2016. And for a recent update on the overall debate, see Hanna, 2021a.
- 17 See, e.g., Abela, 2002); McDowell, 1994; Sellars, 1963; and Sellars, 1968.
- 18 See, e.g., Bauer, 2012; Bowman, 2011; Ginsborg, 2006; Ginsborg, 2008; Golob, 2014; Griffith, 2012; Grüne, 2009; Land, 2011; McDowell, 2009); McDowell, 2013; Pippin, 2013; van Mazijk, 2014; Wenzel, 2005; and Williams, 2012.
- 19 See, e.g. Hanna, 2008; Hanna, 2011a; Hanna, 2015, esp. ch. 2; and Hanna, 2021a; Laiho, 2012; and Tolley, 2013.
- 20 See, e.g., Rohs, 2001; Hanna, 2005; Hanna, 2006, ch. 2; Allais, 2009; and McLear, 2015.
- 21 See, e.g., Hanna, 2008; Hanna, 2011a; Hanna, 2015, chs. 2-3; and Hanna, 2021a.
- 22 See Bermúdez and Cahen, 2020; Evans, 1982, esp. chs. 4-6; and Gunther (ed.), 2003.
- 23 See, e.g., McDowell, 1994; McDowell, 2009; Sedivy, 1996; and Brewer, 1999.
- 24 See, e.g., Russell and Hanna, 2012.
- 25 See, e.g., Dreyfus, 2013, p. 17; and Crowell, 2013.
- 26 Maiese and I have worked out the relevant corresponding analysis of basic intentional actions, and also the relevant corresponding metaphysics of mental causation, in our 2009, chs. 3-5 and 6-8.
- 27 See Hanna, 2015, ch. 2.
- 28 Actually, Kant’s own argument is unsound: there can be incongruent counterparts even if space and time are not transcendently ideal according Kant’s conception of *strong transcendental ideality*, but instead only *weakly or counterfactually transcendently ideal* and also *manifestly real* in my senses of those phrases. For the distinction between strong transcendental ideality and weak or counterfactual transcendental ideality, and also for the corresponding notion of manifest realism, see Hanna, 2006, esp. chs. 1-4 and 6; Hanna, 2015, section 7.3; and Hanna, 2018a, pp. 3-5. Nevertheless Kant’s argument is still philosophically inspiring, because the existence of incongruent counterparts does indeed soundly entail that our discriminating representation of them is concept-independent: concepts do not suffice to discriminate the counterparts.
- 29 See Hanna, 2016a.
- 30 See Hanna, 2015, esp. chs. 3 and 6-8.
- 31 See Hanna, 2011b; Hanna, 2016b; and Hanna, 2019.
- 32 See, e.g., Korsgaard, 1996a; Korsgaard, 1996b; Korsgaard, 2009; and Sidgwick, pp. 511-516.
- 33 See, e.g., Borges, 2019.
- 34 See, e.g., Geiger, 2011; Guevara, 2000); McCarty, 1993; McCarty, 1994; Wuerth, 2013; and Wuerth, 2014.
- 35 See, e.g., Hanna, 2017a.

36 See, e.g., Ware, 2014.

37 For a different take on *Eigenliebe* and *Eigendünkel*, see Ware, 2013.

38 See Hume, book II, part III, section iii, p. 416.

39 Milton, 1953, pp. 204-487, act iv, lines 108-110.

40 See, e.g., Augustine, 1961, book VIII, ch. 5, pp. 164-165.

41 See H. Arendt, 1977. Historical evidence uncovered since then indicates that the actual Eichmann was, in fact, near-Satanically evil himself, so I'm using *Arendt's* Eichmann as my example, not the actual Eichmann.

42 Geiger, 2011, p. 303.

43 See, e.g., Slote, 2013. Of course, I don't deny that the classical caricature of Kant as "a cold, dry, rationalist" makes a very convenient philosophical punching-bag and strawman. But it's simply *not* Kant, whether in his proto-Critical, Critical, or post-Critical practical philosophy. For a contrasting view of Kant in all those periods that's *much* closer to the truth, however, see Shell, 1996.

Received /Recebido: 15.4.2021

Approved / Aprovado: 27.5.2021