

PREFACE

Emotions are “what make us tick.” Understanding emotions is the key to understanding people. Yet, philosophy is not love of people but love of wisdom, and traditionally emotions have been regarded as obstacles to wisdom, it was thought that reason must master the passions. Only recently, around the beginning of the new millennium, has philosophy stepped out of the shadow cast by the master/slave metaphor and put emotions center stage.

This four-volume edition gathers the fruits of the emotional turn in philosophy (with the first articles selected being from the middle of the last century). The *first* volume presents major answers currently given to the question: *what is an emotion?* It features theories that understand emotions mainly as feelings, as forms of action-readiness, as perceptions or judgments of value, and as dynamic or narrative wholes with many different interlocking components.

Specific emotions, such as romantic love, disgust, or pride, are analyzed in the *fourth* and last volume.

The second and third volumes occupy the middle ground in that they are less concrete than the last volume, but more concrete than the first. The *third* volume focuses on the role emotions play in *morality* and *aesthetics* and the *second* volume on their role in a *happy and meaningful life*. The latter volume discusses, among other things, how and to what end emotions are *regulated* and whether or not they can be *shared*. As *moods* are of primary relevance for the quality of our life, a whole section of the second volume is dedicated to the as-yet-understudied category of moods.

In compiling these four volumes, which consist of over 60 articles, we have tried to look beyond the “Tellerrand” of mainstream analytical philosophy and included not only articles from continental philosophy, but also from other academic disciplines such as psychology and sociology, and even from beyond academia, for example, from psychotherapy, literature, and film. Another of our concerns has been to give women authors a prominent place. Although emotions are often assigned to women, who in consequence might know more about them than men, women have been underrepresented in theoretical studies in this field.

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Most of the articles have been published before; we left them as they were, except for correcting typos. Two texts were especially translated for this edition. Several others have been revised or appear here for the first time.

Needless to say, it was no easy task to decide “what’s in” and “what’s out”. Compiling these volumes has taken us more than two years and we are still sure that we have missed many a good text. Without the help of our colleagues, students, assistants, and friends, we would probably never have managed it at all. Our special thanks go to Katharina Bauer, Larissa Dätwyler, Dominik Eaton, Francisco Gallegos, Johannes Hapig, David Heyd, Rick Furtak, Friedrich Kambartel, Hagi Kenaan, Avraham Kenan, Jochen Koenigsmann, Hilge Landweer, Avishai Margalit, Ariel Meirav, Jason Morris, Jan Müller, Glendyr Sacks, Hans Julius Schneider, Hubert Schnüriger, Susanne Schmetkamp, Jan Slaby, Thomas Szanto, Roger Scruton, Saul Smilansky, Daniel Statman, Achim Stephan, Stephanie Zundel, Markus Wild, and the *European Philosophical Society for the Study of Emotions*.