

The Blackwell Guide  
to  
Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*

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*Blackwell Guides* present original scholarly essays that illuminate the entirety of one major philosophical work. This *Guide* is devoted to Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit* (1807). This volume is a **collective commentary** on the whole of Hegel's *Phenomenology*, in sequence with Hegel's text. These essays may be used by serious undergraduates and non-specialists, while making original – often highly original – contributions to our understanding of Hegel's first masterpiece. Each essay focuses on the main philosophical issues involved in the relevant section of Hegel's text, and presents these issues in ways that illuminate the actual course of Hegel's discussion, both to aid readers and to provide textual support for the interpretation advanced in the essay. Each essay indicates, clearly and concisely, the role of the relevant section of Hegel's text in the over-all philosophical economy of Hegel's *Phenomenology*.

The contributors to this *Guide* are a carefully selected international group of philosophical scholars. Hegel scholarship has suffered by the relative isolation of regional or national scholarly traditions. This volume aims to surmount those limitations, and to show the importance of so doing.

The cohesiveness of Hegel's *Phenomenology* is much disputed, regarding whether Hegel's book undertakes a unitary project, and if so, in what its unity consists. This poses serious problems for teachers, students and readers generally. The present volume provides three complementary accounts of the unity of Hegel's *Phenomenology*. The first chapter, on Hegel's method and the "Consciousness" section, concludes with a synopsis of Hegel's over-arching epistemological argument in the *Phenomenology*. The penultimate chapter, on "Absolute Knowing," reconstructs Hegel's own retrospective summary of his book. The final chapter, on Hegel's theory of spirit (*Geist*) and concrete, individual subjectivity, provides an over-arching account of how Hegel's *Phenomenology* fundamentally reconceives our individual subjectivity and how it develops Hegel's radical reconception of subjectivity throughout his *Phenomenology of Spirit*. The links between these three accounts of the unity of Hegel's *Phenomenology* are indicated in the Editor's Introduction, along with the cumulative order of the individual chapters.

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