



## Autonomy

Beyond Kant and Hermeneutics

*Edited by Paula Banerjee and Samir Kumar Das*

**Pub Date:** July 2008

**Binding:** Hardback

**Price:** £50 / \$80

**ISBN:** 9781843317432

**Extent:** 269 pages

**Size:** 234 x 153mm; 9.2 x 6

**Category:** PHILOSOPHY / Free Will & Determinism

**BISAC code:** PHI007000

**BIC code:** HP

**Rights Held:** World, excluding South Asia (i.e. India, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Bhutan and Sri Lanka)

### Description

**A critical attempt to understand autonomy from both historical and analytical perspectives.**

In the first decade of the twenty-first century autonomy has become one of the major concerns of our social and political existence. The right to autonomous life is now a political, cultural and social call of both the individual and the group – a rare conformity that points to the crucial importance of autonomy in the agenda of critical thinking.

Though the notion of autonomy in the modern era was at first applied in a political context, the term was quickly taken up in the context of individual rational persons, their rights and existences. In the wake of anti colonial movements, the term gained new perspectives and meanings which would imply new rights and new responsibilities. It became the emblem of group rights, in particular minority rights. In time the idea of autonomy became not only the standard of rights and responsibilities, but also an issue of governmentality.

The present volume is a critical attempt to understand autonomy from both historical and analytical perspectives. An international group of scholars seek answers that go beyond the thinking of Immanuel Kant or a simple hermeneutic reading of the principle of autonomy. **Autonomy**, in this collective reading, emerges as deeply rooted in social practices and contentious politics.

**Readership:** Academics and students of philosophy.

### Contents

Editorial Introduction; Culture and Contrasting Views on the Individual, Autonomy and Mortality with Special Reference to India; 'Property of the Self', Individual Autonomy and the Modern European Discourse of Citizenship; Beyond the Hermeneutics of Autonomy; The Slow Emergence of British Women as Autonomous Subjects; Autonomy or Deliberative Governance?; The Idea of Jharkhand; Law's Autonomy; Autonomous Voices of the First Nations; Examining Autonomy and the 73rd Amendment in Assam; Dalai Lama's New Initiative for Autonomy

### About the Editors

Paula Banerjee is a member of the Calcutta Research Group and teaches at the Department of South and South East Asian Studies, University of Calcutta, Kolkata. She specializes in issues of peace and conflict in South Asia and diplomatic history, and is a women's rights activist.

Samir Kumar Das is the Research Coordinator, Calcutta Research Group and Professor of Political Science at University of Calcutta, Kolkata.

#### Ordering in the UK/Rest of the World

Marston Book Services  
P.O. Box 269  
Abingdon, Oxfordshire  
OX14 4YN, United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 (0)1235 465577  
Fax: +44 (0)1235 465556  
direct.orders@marston.co.uk  
trade.orders@marston.co.uk

#### Ordering in North America

Books International  
P.O. Box 605  
Herndon, VA 20172-0605  
United States  
Tel: +1 703 661 1570  
Fax: +1 703 661 1501  
bimail@presswarehouse.com