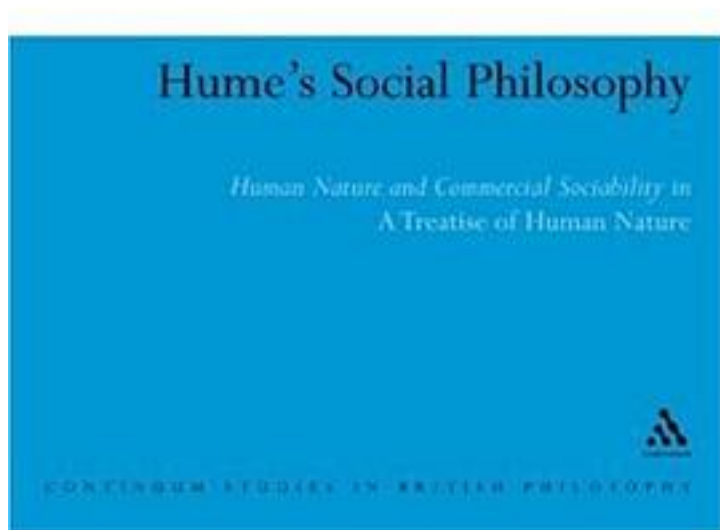


Hume's Social Philosophy

Christopher J. Finlay



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In Hume's Social Philosophy, Christopher J Finlay presents a highly original and engaging reading of David Hume's landmark text, A Treatise of Human Nature, and political writings published immediately after it, articulating a unified view of his theory of human nature in society and his political philosophy. The book explores the hitherto neglected social contexts within which Hume's ideas were conceived. While a great deal of attention has previously been given to Hume's intellectual and literary contexts, important connections can also be made between the fundamentals of Hume's philosophy and the social world in which it was developed. Finlay argues that Hume's unified theory of human nature, conceived in terms of passions, reason and sociability, was meant to account for human nature in its most articulate manifestations, in the commercial and 'polite' social contexts of eighteenth-century Europe. Through careful exegetical study of Hume's analysis of reasoning and the passions, Finlay explores the diverse aspects of sociability which the Treatise of Human Nature invokes. In particular, this study finds in the Treatise an important exploration of the tensions between the selfish motivations of individuals and their propensity to bond with others in complex and diverse kinds of social group. Analysis of Book III of the Treatise and of essays published afterwards shows how the various individualist and social propensities explored through the passions are addressed in Hume's theories of justice, morals and politics.

作者介绍:

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标签

政治哲学

休谟

评论

当前研究倾向的代表，强调休谟哲学的社会意涵，一方面认为政治的作用边缘化，只是为社会提供保障，一方面反对把社会关系简化为占有性个人的经济关系，而是具有道德、激情、知识论的丰富意涵。写法上外围讨论较多，有还原论色彩（还原到英国当时的社会状况），解释上还是过于依赖同情机制了。

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书评

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