

## Foreword and Acknowledgements

Jaakko Hintikka is one of the most creative figures in contemporary philosophy. He has made significant contributions to virtually all areas of the discipline (with the exception of moral philosophy) from epistemology and the philosophy of logic to the history of philosophy, aesthetics and the philosophy of science. In our view, part of the fruitfulness of Hintikka's work is due to its opening important new lines of investigation and new approaches to traditional philosophical problems.

In this volume we have gathered together essays from some of Hintikka's colleagues and former students exploring his influence on their work and pursuing some of the insights that we have found in his work. While the book does contain some criticism of Hintikka's views, this certainly does not purport to be a fair and balanced look at his work. We are unabashedly partisan in our admiration for the man and his work and have put this volume together in a collaborative spirit as a celebration of Hintikka's many contributions to philosophy.

In this volume we have included an annotated bibliography of Hintikka's work. We gratefully acknowledge the *Philosopher's Information Center*, *The Philosopher's Index* and Dick Lineback in particular for permission to reprint some of the abstracts included in the bibliography. By itself, this would serve as an important resource for philosophers and scholars. 'Prolific' is too modest an adjective for Hintikka, as readers can see for themselves from the size of this annotated bibliography. His massive and diverse body of work poses a real challenge for scholars who hope to find a single philosophical agenda or view that we can associate with Hintikka.

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300+ articles, many of them groundbreaking, overwhelm and in a certain sense eclipse his 35+ books. There are a number of ways that one can approach the scale and variety of this work. Our purpose in including the bibliography is to permit others to glean what they will from Hintikka's prodigious philosophical output. We eagerly anticipate the publication of a current bibliography of Hintikka's work, including all reprint and translation details in the *Library of Living Philosophers* volume dedicated to Hintikka. That task, unfortunately, was beyond us. Heartfelt thanks also to Anthony E. Nelson for expert assistance with the grueling task of typesetting.

When we considered the importance and impact of Hintikka's work, it occurred to us that its philosophical consequence is not the additive property of the sum of its parts. We struggled for a way to think about the proliferation of research programs, counterarguments and Ph.D. dissertations that Hintikka's work inspires and settled in the end on the awkward analogy of the powerset. Hintikka's philosophical legacy will be something like the philosophical powerset of his publications and lines of research. The powerset of a set  $S$ , is the set of possible subsets of  $S$ , and by analogy, rather than attempting to synthesize Hintikka's work into well-defined themes or bumper-stickers, our goal here is to represent the proliferation of different ways one can construe his work and the variety of lines of inquiry that it suggests.

We are very grateful to the distinguished group of colleagues who have contributed to this volume. We are a diverse group, from recent students of Hintikka to some of his most distinguished peers. While we are far from agreement on all the issues discussed in this volume, we are all united by a great fondness for this remarkable man. We see him as a central and pivotal figure in our individual and collective pursuits of wisdom.

Anyone who is even remotely aware of what Hintikka may be working on at the moment will have the impression that his next greatest achievement, his next greatest result, is just down the road ahead of us, just around the next bend. Those of us who have the privilege of knowing Hintikka cannot help feeling the intensity and excitement of philosophical discovery. Unlike so many of the cynical, world-weary philosophers who figured so prominently in recent decades, Hintikka's energy, optimism and mental agility are unparalleled. In that respect, he is the most refreshingly immature mature philosopher in our midst. To put it simply, among philosophers Hintikka is youngest at heart, and boldest of mind.

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