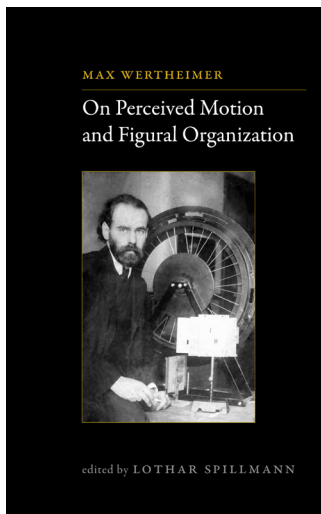


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Endorsements

“This first complete translation of Max Wertheimer’s early writings makes his classic work available to a much enlarged readership. The fabulous mind of the author is exhibited in astonishingly painstaking experimentation driven by the logic of relational determination (Gestalt theory). Supplementary essays by six distinguished scientists flesh out the theoretical and historical significance of what provoked a paradigm shift.”

—**Richard Held**, emeritus professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences at MIT

“Reading the classical Wertheimer papers, I am impressed by his originality, energy, range of approach, experimental skill, the wealth of findings, and the quality of theoretical discussions. My hope is that with this translation his works will cease to be just celebrated historical pieces, cited but not read, but become sources of inspiration for contemporary vision researchers.”

—**Dejan Todoroviæ**, University of Belgrade, Serbia

On Perceived Motion and Figural Organization

Max Wertheimer

Edited by Lothar Spillmann

Michael Wertheimer, Contributing editor

There are few articles in science that remain relevant over a span of 100 years; Max Wertheimer’s pioneering experimental studies on apparent motion and figural organization are notable exceptions. Wertheimer’s 1912 account of motion perception started a revolution and established the Gestalt school of psychology. It also paved the way for further investigations of apparent motion perception, including subsequent research by Oliver Braddick, Stuart Anstis, Vilaynur Ramachandran, and others. Wertheimer’s 1923 article on figural organization (known as the “dot study” for its numerous examples of dot patterns) helped define grouping as a principle of figure-ground perception. This book provides contemporary readers and researchers with Wertheimer’s two pivotal articles, newly translated into English and each accompanied by a synopsis, and two essays on apparent motion and figural organization that describe the long-term impact of Wertheimer’s work.

The translation of the original German into readable English prose allows English-language readers for the first time to appreciate Wertheimer’s visionary ideas. The accompanying essays tie Wertheimer’s phenomenological descriptions to the underlying neuronal mechanisms, bridging the years between the articles’ first publication and modern research.

About the Author

Max Wertheimer (1880–1943) was the founder of Gestalt psychology. He taught at the universities of Berlin and Frankfurt and at the New School for Social Research in New York.

About the Editor

Lothar Spillmann, was for many years Professor in the Brain Research Unit at the University of Freiburg, is Visiting Professor at the Herder Foundation, Bonn, and the China Medical University, Taichung, Taiwan. He edited Wolfgang Metzger’s *Laws of Seeing* (MIT Press, 2005), another classic work from the Gestalt movement.

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