

Unlocking the Secrets: An Introduction to Theories of Right and Wrong

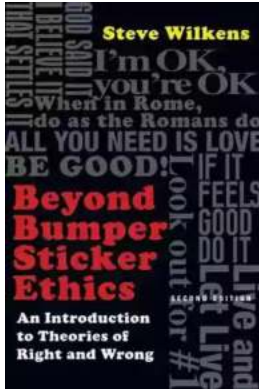


Right and wrong. These two words have perplexed brilliant minds throughout history. From ancient philosophers to modern-day ethicists, understanding the nature of morality has been a fundamental pursuit of humanity. Dive into the realm of ethical theories as we unravel the complexities of right and wrong, examining their philosophical foundations and exploring how they shape our choices in everyday life.

The Objective vs. Subjective Debate

One of the first questions that arise when discussing right and wrong is whether morality is objective or subjective. Objective morality argues that there are

universal moral truths, independent of personal beliefs or societal norms. On the other hand, subjective morality posits that moral judgments are relative and vary from person to person or culture to culture.



Beyond Bumper Sticker Ethics: An Introduction to Theories of Right and Wrong

by Steve Wilkens(0002 Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 873 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 241 pages



Exploring the theories of divine command, natural law, and consequentialism, we gain insights into the objectivist perspective. These theories propose that moral principles are rooted in religious authority, the fundamental nature of the universe, or the consequences of actions, respectively.

Furthermore, ethical subjectivism, cultural relativism, and emotivism present subjective stances on morality. Ethical subjectivism argues that moral judgments are expressions of personal feelings or attitudes. Cultural relativism suggests that morality is shaped by cultural norms and customs, differing across societies. Emotivism, influenced by the philosopher A.J. Ayer, contends that moral statements merely express emotions rather than making claims about right or wrong.

The Deontological Perspective

Descend into the realm of deontological ethics, which focuses on determining moral duties and obligations. From Immanuel Kant's renowned categorical imperative to W.D. Ross's prima facie duties, these theories examine the inherent obligations we have towards others and ourselves.

Uncover the intricacies of Kantian deontology, where actions are evaluated based on their conformity to moral principles, regardless of the consequences. Discover how Ross's approach introduces the concept of prima facie duties, which are binding unless overridden by other moral considerations.

The Greatest Happiness Principle and Utilitarianism

Widely regarded as a consequentialist theory, utilitarianism places emphasis on maximizing overall happiness. Dive into the works of Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill as we explore the complexities of this influential theory.

Delve into the concept of the greatest happiness principle, which holds that actions are morally right if they promote the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people. Learn about the distinction between act utilitarianism and rule utilitarianism, and how these variations impact the evaluation of moral choices.

The Virtue of Virtue Ethics

In contrast to deontological and consequentialist theories, virtue ethics focuses on developing moral character. Ancient philosophers such as Aristotle and Confucius were the pioneers of this approach, emphasizing the cultivation of virtues as the path to ethical living.

Examine Aristotle's concept of eudaimonia, which highlights the pursuit of human flourishing through the development of virtues such as courage, temperance, and

justice. Gain an understanding of how modern virtue ethicists such as Alasdair MacIntyre and Julia Driver have built upon these classical foundations.

Applying Ethical Theories in Everyday Life

Understanding ethical theories provides us with frameworks to navigate the complex moral dilemmas we encounter in our daily lives. Explore how these theories can guide our decision-making processes, whether it be in personal relationships, professional settings, or societal issues.

From contemplating the ethics of abortion and capital punishment to grappling with the moral implications of lying and stealing, ethical theories equip us with a lens through which we can critically analyze and evaluate these ethical predicaments.

The Future of Moral Philosophy

As our world evolves, so too must our understanding of right and wrong. Delve into the emerging trends within moral philosophy, including applied ethics, environmental ethics, and the ethics of artificial intelligence.

Discover how philosophers, scientists, and ethicists are grappling with the ethical challenges posed by advancements in technology, genetic engineering, and the changing dynamics of our ever-connected global society.

The study of theories of right and wrong brings us closer to unraveling the complex tapestry of morality. From provoking questions about the nature of ethics to applying these theories in practical situations, our journey has shed light on the timeless pursuit of understanding what it means to live a morally virtuous life.

Morality

Altruism, moral decisions, impact, and effectiveness

Gilad Feldman (Fili)

<http://giladfeldman.org>

gfeldman@hku.hk

Twitter: [@giladfeldman](https://twitter.com/giladfeldman)

Mailing list: <https://mgto.org/giladmailinglist>

So, join us on this intellectual odyssey as we plunge into the depths of right and wrong, exploring the theories that have shaped our understanding of morality for centuries.



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Ideas have consequences. And sometimes those ideas can be squeezed into slogans, slapped on bumper stickers and tweeted into cyberspace. These compact messages coming at us from all directions often compress in a few words entire ethical systems. It turns out that there's a lot more to the ideas behind these slogans--ideas that need to be sorted out before we make important moral decisions as individuals or as societies.

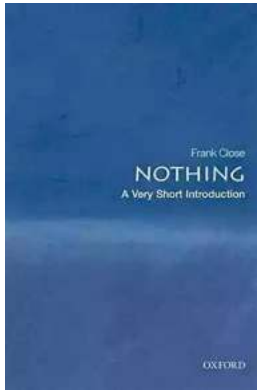
In this revised and expanded edition of Steve Wilkens's widely-used text, the author has updated his s to basic ethical systems:

- cultural relativism
- ethical egoism
- utilitarianism
- behaviorism
- situation ethics
- Kantian ethics
- virtue ethics
- natural law ethics
- divine command theory

He has also added two new chapters:

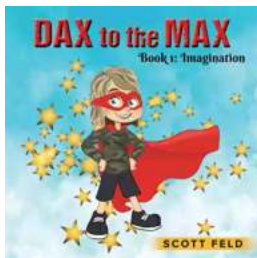
- evolutionary ethics
- narrative ethics

With clarity and wit Wilkens unpacks the complicated ideas behind the slogans and offers Christian evaluations of each.



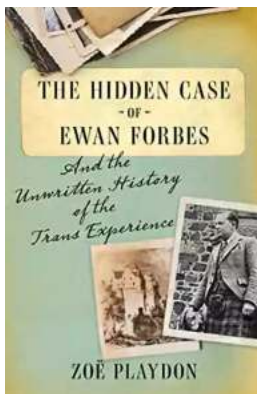
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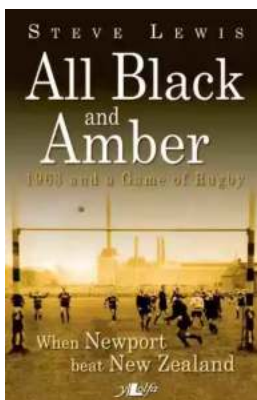
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