



Metaethics: A Contemporary Introduction (Routledge Contemporary Introductions to Philosophy)

By Mark van Roojen

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Metaethics: A Contemporary Introduction provides a solid foundation in metaethics for advanced undergraduates by introducing a series of puzzles that most metaethical theories address. These puzzles involve moral disagreement, reference, moral epistemology, metaphysics, and moral psychology. From there, author Mark van Roojen discusses the many positions in metaethics that people will take in reaction to these puzzles. Van Roojen asks several essential questions of his readers, namely: What is metaethics? Why study it? How does one discuss metaethics, given its inherently controversial nature? Each chapter closes with questions, both for reading comprehension and further discussion, and annotated suggestions for further reading.

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Editorial Review

Review

"The contemporary landscape of metaethics is a topsy-turvy field of complex contributions, new twists on old views, and fundamental disputes about how, even, to describe the basic questions under dispute. In *Metaethics: A Contemporary Introduction*, one of the masters of the craft cuts through this complexity in order to put readers in a position to see the compelling philosophical problems that lead to these different comprehensive theories."

Mark Schroeder, University of Southern California, USA

"Beautifully conceived, this book begins by explaining three central goals that drive much contemporary metaethical theorizing: to provide a plausible conception of the subject-matter of ethical thought and talk, to explain the practicality of ethics, and to explain the possibility and texture of ethical knowledge. The book then uses these goals to motivate and evaluate systematic metaethical theories, from simple views that are often used as instructive foils to the most influential contemporary options. Fair-minded, illuminating, and accessible to the neophyte, this is an invaluable resource for students and teachers of introductory courses in metaethics."

Tristram McPherson, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, USA

"Mark van Roojen's new work is now the finest book of its kind. It is focused on the right questions, it sympathetically reconstructs and fairly criticizes the major arguments offered for the major metaethical positions, and it is informed throughout by a deep familiarity with the philosophical terrain. This will be a huge help for those seeking to acquaint themselves with the history of metaethics over the past two generations. This is a terrific book."

Russ Shafer-Landau, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA

About the Author

Mark van Roojen is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. He works primarily in ethics and metaethics but remains interested in the rest of philosophy. His most widely read papers are on moral rationalism, expressivism, moral psychology, and the semantics of moral terms.

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