

Kalokairinou, Eleni

From Meta-Ethics to Ethics

An Overview of R. M. Hare's Moral Philosophy

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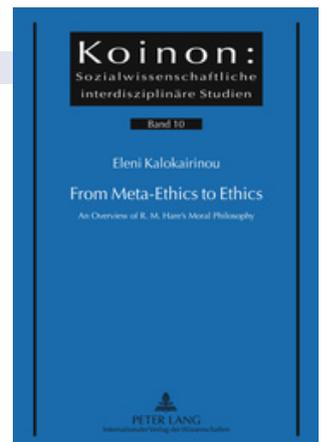
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Book synopsis

This book brings out the way in which the twentieth century philosopher R. M. Hare has attempted to break the deadlock to which his contemporary moral theories had been led, i.e. irrationalism and relativism. Taking his point of departure from these theories, he suggests that the logical rules we reach from the linguistic analysis of moral language can have implications on the normative level, which in their form are in agreement with the principle of utility. So he differs from his contemporary philosophers because he argues that we engage in moral philosophy with a view to clarifying and solving the practical problems we face in life. In this sense he is an ardent defender of the practical relevance of philosophy. Hare's moral account is closely analyzed in this book and his main theses are tested not only for internal coherence but also for their capacity to resist all rational criticism.

Contents

Contents: Hare's Predecessors - The Logical Features of Moral Language - The Non-Logical Ingredients of Moral Argument - Imperative Logic and Decisions of Principle: The Existentialist Phase of Moral Reasoning - The Universal Prescriptivist Kind of Utilitarianism: The Formalistic Stage of Moral Argument - The Two Levels of Moral Thinking: The Recent Account of Moral Theory - From Theory to Practice - An Overall Evaluation.

About the author(s)/editor(s)

Eleni Kalokairinou studied Philosophy at the University of Athens (BA) and at the University of Exeter (MA, PhD). Her research interests include Philosophy, Moral Philosophy, Applied Ethics, Bioethics and History of Philosophy. She worked at the University of Crete. She has been teaching at the University of Cyprus as a Lecturer since 1999 and as an Assistant Professor since 2002.

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