

Contemporary Debates In Philosophy

Second Edition

Contemporary Debates in Applied Ethics

Edited by

*Andrew I. Cohen and
Christopher Heath Wellman*

WILEY Blackwell

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Contemporary Debates in Philosophy

In teaching and research, philosophy makes progress through argumentation and debate. Contemporary Debates in Philosophy provides a forum for students and their teachers to follow and participate in the debates that animate philosophy today in the western world. Each volume presents pairs of opposing viewpoints on contested themes and topics in the central subfields of philosophy. Each volume is edited and introduced by an expert in the field, and also includes an index, bibliography, and suggestions for further reading. The opposing chapters, commissioned especially for the volumes in the series, are thorough but accessible presentations of opposing points of view.

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WILEY Blackwell

This edition first published 2014

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2014 John Corvino

Registered Office

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data applied for

Paperback ISBN: 9781118479391

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Cover design by Cyan Design.

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Acknowledgments

We are grateful to Bernard R. Boxill, Dorothy Denning, R.G. Frey, Deborah G. Jonson, Hugh LaFollette, and Jeffrey Rosen for advice in the early stages. Jeff Dean, Nirit Simon, and Jennifer Bray at Wiley-Blackwell have been immensely supportive and patient. Most importantly, we would like to thank Adam Adler, Brad Champion, Chetan Cetty, Ryan McWhorter and Carson Young for providing crucial research and editorial assistance.

Introduction

Andrew I. Cohen and Christopher Heath Wellman

Contemporary Debates in Applied Ethics presents fourteen pairs of chapters by some of the leading theorists working in the field today. Philosophers, social theorists, and legal scholars take opposing sides on issues of enduring and special contemporary importance. This second edition includes several new topics (including drugs, humanitarian intervention, profiling, reparations, same-sex marriage, and torture), as well as an additional introductory chapter on ethical theory by Stephen Darwall. The authors draw on recent developments in moral and political theory, economics, science, and public policy. Their chapters are written in plain, jargon-free language so as to be accessible to introductory students, but they also feature cutting-edge, rigorous arguments that will demand the attention of scholars currently working on these important issues.

Issues of Life and Death

Patrick Lee and **Robert P. George** argue that abortion often wrongly kills a human being. A fetus, they claim in "The Wrong of Abortion," is a morally significant and distinct entity who is internally programmed to become an independent and mature human being – unless stopped by some disease or act of violence. A fetus is the same *kind* of thing as you are, but only at an earlier developmental stage. The authors discuss how we are living bodily entities, and as such we come to be long before birth. We become morally significant at the moment of conception; at that point each of us becomes the sort of entity who has the potential to