NUMBER 1

WINTER 1994

Social Philosophy & Policy

Cultural Pluralism and moral renowicase

CONTENTS

CHANDRAN KUKATHAS	Explaining Moral Variety	1
ALAN GEWIRTH	Is Cultural Pluralism Relevant to Moral Knowledge?	22
JOHN KEKES	Pluralism and the Value of Life	44
CHARLES LARMORE	Pluralism and Reasonable Disagreement	61
NICHOLAS L. STURGEON	Moral Disagreement and Moral Relativism	80
ERNEST SOSA	Moral Relativism, Cognitivism, and Defeasible Rules	116
JOSEPH RAZ	Moral Change and Social Relativism	139
WALLACE I. MATSON	The Expiration of Morality	159
DAVID O. BRINK	Common Sense and First Principles in Sidgwick's <i>Methods</i>	179
GEOFFREY SAYRE-McCORD	On Why Hume's "General Point of View" Isn't Ideal—and Shouldn't Be	202
GILBERT HARMAN	Explaining Value	229
BERNARD BOXILL	The Culture of Poverty	249

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Social Philosophy & Policy

ISSN 0265-0525

Editor: Ellen Frankel Paul Associate Editors: Fred D. Miller, Jr., and Jeffrey Paul Managing Editor: Harry Dolan

Social Philosophy and Policy Center

Editorial Board

David Braybrooke University of Texas, Austin **Baruch Brody** Rice University **James Buchanan** Center for Study of Public Choice, George Mason University **Jules** Coleman Yale University Maurice Cranston London School of Economics Jack Douglas University of California, San Diego **Richard Epstein** University of Chicago Law School **James Fishkin** University of Texas, Austin

Antony G.N. Flew University of Reading (Emeritus) **Charles Fried** Harvard Law School Martin Golding Duke University - John Gray Jesus College, Oxford University Gilbert Harman Princeton University Seymour Martin Lipset George Mason University and Hoover Institution, Stanford University Eric Mack Tulane University Harvey Mansfield, Jr. Harward University

Wallace I. Matson University of California, Berkeley Jan Narveson University of Waterloo **Robert Nozick** Harvard University Nicholas Rescher University of Pittsburgh David Sidorsky Columbia University **Hillel Steiner** University of Manchester James Q. Wilson University of California, Los Angeles Leland B. Yeager Auburn University

Social Philosophy & Policy is an interdisciplinary journal with an emphasis on the philosophical underpinnings of enduring social policy debates. Each issue is dedicated to a particular theme chosen by the editors, with the advice of the editorial board, designed to appeal to both academic specialists and a broader scholarly audience. While not primarily a journal of policy prescriptions, several contributions to each issue will typically connect theory with practice. The editors encourage and actively pursue diversity of viewpoints of contributors. Diversity is also encouraged by selecting authors from among different disciplines, especially philosophy, economics, political science, and the law. Readers' suggestions for future themes are always welcome, as are inquiries about the topics of issues already planned.

Editorial Office: Social Philosophy and Policy Center, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH 43403, USA.

Publishing, Subscription, and Advertising Information: See inside back cover.

Copyright © 1994 Social Philosophy and Policy Foundation

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, in any form or by any means, electronic, photocopying or otherwise, without permission in writing from Social Philosophy & Policy. Photocopying information for users in the USA: The Item-Fee Code for this publication (0265-0525/94 \$5.00+.00) indicates that copying for internal or personal use beyond that permitted by Sec. 107 or 108 of the U.S. Copyright Law is authorized for users duly registered with the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) Transaction Reporting Service, provided that the appropriate remittance of \$5.00 per article is paid directly to: CCC, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923. Specific written permission must be obtained from Social Philosophy & Policy for all other copying.

CONTRIBUTORS

Chandran Kukathas is Senior Lecturer in Politics at University College of the University of New South Wales. He is the author of *Hayek and Modern Liberalism* (1989) and coauthor of *Rawls: A Theory of Justice and Its Critics* (with Philip Pettit, 1990). He is coeditor of the recently founded Journal *of Political Philosophy.*

Alan Gewirth is E. C. Waller Distinguished Service Professor of Philosophy at the University of Chicago. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a past president of the American Philosophical Association and the American Society for Political and Legal Philosophy. He has held two Rockefeller Foundation fellowships, two National Endowment for the Humanities fellowships, and a Guggenheim fellowship. His books include *Marsilius of Padua and Medieval Political Philosophy* (1951), *Reason and Morality* (1978), and *Human Rights: Essays on Justification and Applications* (1982). He is currently working on a sequel to *Reason and Morality* titled *The Community of Rights*.

John Kekes is Professor of Philosophy and Public Policy at the State University of New York at Albany. He is the author of *A Justification of Rationality* (1976), *The Nature of Philosophy* (1980), *The Examined Life* (1988), *Moral Tradition and Individuality* (1989), *Facing Evil* (1990), and *The Morality of Pluralism* (1993).

Charles Larmore is Professor of Philosophy and Chairman of the Philosophy Department at Columbia University. He is the author of *Patterns of Moral Complexity* (1987) and *Modernité et morale* (1993), and an editor of the *Journal of Philosophy*. In addition to his work in political theory and in seventeenth-century philosophy (focusing on skepticism), he is now engaged in writing a book on the philosophical contributions of Romanticism.

Nicholas L. Sturgeon is Professor of Philosophy and currently Chair of the Sage School of Philosophy at Cornell University. He has published a number of articles on moral realism and on related metaphysical and epistemological issues in ethics. He is also interested in the history of British moral philosophy in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and has written on Butler and on Hume.

Ernest Sosa is Romeo Elton Professor in the Philosophy Department of Brown University. He has been editor of *Philosophy and Phenomenological*

CONTRIBUTORS

Research since 1983 and of *Cambridge Studies in Philosophy* since 1990. He has published papers in epistemology and metaphysics and is author of the collection *Knowledge and Perspective* (1991).

Joseph Raz is Professor of the Philosophy of Law at Oxford University and Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford. He is a fellow of the British Academy and an honorary foreign member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His books include *The Authority of Law* (1979), *The Concept* of a Legal System (1980), *The Morality of Freedom* (1986), and *Practical Rea*son and Norms (1990).

Wallace I. Matson is Professor of Philosophy, Emeritus, at the University of California, Berkeley. He has written books and articles on the history of philosophy, philosophy of mind, philosophy of religion, Spinoza, and social philosophy.

David O. Brink is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His research interests are in ethical theory, history of ethics, political philosophy, and legal theory. He is the author of *Moral Realism and the Foundation of Ethics* (1989).

Geoffrey Sayre-McCord is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. A coeditor of the journal *Noûs*, he has written on a number of topics related to moral realism, contractarian moral theory, and the history of ethics. His edited collection *Essays on Moral Realism* was published in 1988.

Gilbert Harman is Professor of Philosophy at Princeton University, where he has taught since 1963. He is the author of *Thought* (1973), *The Nature* of Morality: An Introduction to Ethics (1977), Change in View: Principles of Reasoning (1986), and numerous articles. He serves on the editorial boards of several journals, including Behavioral and Brain Sciences, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, and Social Philosophy & Policy. He is co-director (with George Miller) of the Princeton University Cognitive Science Laboratory and is head of Princeton's Undergraduate Program in Cognitive Studies. His current research interests include explaining why people value what they value, moral objectivity, the nature of consciousness, the role of practical considerations in scientific reasoning, and the interpretation of probability.

Bernard Boxill is Professor of Philosophy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. A previous contributor to Social Philosophy & Policy, his essays have also appeared in Philosophy & Public Affairs, Ethics, Social Theory and Practice, Philosophical Forum, and other journals. A second edition of his book Blacks and Social Justice was published in 1992.