

Wiley Blackwell

CONTEMPORARY MORAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES:

An Introduction Through Original Fiction, Discussion, and Readings

By Thomas D. Davis

Author of Philosophy: An Introduction Through Original Fiction, Discussion, and Readings

Contemporary Moral and Social Issues is a uniquely entertaining introduction that brings ethical thought to life. It makes innovative use of engaging, topically oriented original short fiction, together with classic and influential readings and editorial discussion as a means of helping students think philosophically about ethical theory and practical ethical problems. The stories include:

- “The Trainers,” where it turns out an alien race that saved humans from extinction is now raising those humans for food, using the same justifications we use with animals;
- “People of the Underground,” where people holding out against the genetically engineered “Clones” make the preservation of “true humanity” seem of dubious value;
- “The River,” where a Westerner in an isolated outpost is faced with a steady stream of people who will die unless he makes Peter-Singer-style sacrifices to save them; and
- “The Divided States of America,” a satire in which the mid-twentieth-century United States is dividing up into four separate countries based on caricature versions of liberalism, conservatism, libertarianism and socialism.

“THOMAS DAVIS’S BOOK IS AN ABSOLUTE JOY TO READ. His original fiction flows seamlessly into the philosophical discussions, masterfully guiding the study of ethics to where it really matters: life.”

—Mark D. White, *Professor and Chair, Department of Philosophy, College of Staten Island/CUNY*

“DAVIS HAS WRITTEN A FANTASTIC INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS TEXT. His unique blend of original fiction, clear analysis, and engaging primary sources provides a sure-fire way to get students talking and thinking about some of today’s most pressing moral issues.”

—Matt Lawrence, *Long Beach City College*

How to subscribe to *Think*

For more information or to view sample articles online, go to journals.cambridge.org/thi
Prices are for three issues of *Think* in 2015, the Spring, Summer and Autumn issues.

Institutions

Print & electronic £137 / \$246

Electronic only £116 / \$213

Individual

Print only £20 / \$34

School rate

Print & electronic £52 / \$87

Order online at journals.cambridge.org/thi

or contact:

Journals Customer Services

Cambridge University Press

FREEPOST CB27

UPH, Shaftesbury Road

Cambridge, CB2 8BS

If posting from outside the UK, a stamp is required.

To contact by telephone or email: +44 (0)1223 326070 journals@cambridge.org

To subscribe from the US, Canada or Mexico

please contact:

Journal_subscriptions@cambridge.org

1 845 353 7500 or (toll free) on 1 800 872 7423

The Royal Institute of Philosophy

Think is published on behalf of the Royal Institute of Philosophy, which was founded in 1925. The Institute welcomes as members any who are interested in philosophy. There are branches of the Institute in many regional centres, details of which are on the Institute's website www.royalinstitutephilosophy.org

The annual membership is £25, \$45 in the USA and Canada. For full-time students and those registered as unemployed the membership is £10 or \$22. Members receive copies of the journal *Philosophy* and are entitled to a special rate subscription to *Think*. Applications should be made to The Secretary, Royal Institute of Philosophy, 14 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0AR or via the Institute's website.

This journal issue has been printed on FSC-certified paper and cover board. FSC is an independent, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world's forests. Please see www.fsc.org for information.

Think

Number 40 Volume 14 Summer 2015

Included in this issue:

- 5 Introduction
STEPHEN LAW
- 9 A Debate Between a Theist and a Santa Clausist (Act I)
RUTH TALLMAN AND DAVID KYLE JOHNSON
- 27 A Debate Between a Theist and a Santa Clausist (Act II)
RUTH TALLMAN AND DAVID KYLE JOHNSON
- 43 The Evil God Challenge – a Response
KEITH WARD
- 51 Good to Be Bad?
PAUL BLOOMFIELD
- 57 The Immorality of Prayer
ARDON LYON
- 65 On Introspection and Introspectionism
CHRISTIAN BEENFELDT
- 73 A Platonic Method for Making Ideas Engaging and
Accessible
CHARLES MORE
- 87 What is Art? A Pragmatic Perspective
THOMAS C. SCOTT-PHILLIPS
- 93 Moral Clumsiness
ALEJANDRO ARANGO
- 101 A Simplified Ontological Argument and Fictional Entities
GIANLUCA DI MUZIO
- 109 The Rationality of Religious Beliefs
BRYAN FRANCES

© The Royal Institute of Philosophy 2015

Cambridge Journals Online
For further information about this journal
please go to the journal website at:
journals.cambridge.org/thi



MIX
Paper from
responsible sources
FSC® C007785

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS