Practical Rationality and Preference

What are preferences? Are they reasons for action? Is it rational to cooperate with others even when that means acting against one’s preferences?

A prominent position in philosophy on the topic of practical rationality is that it is rational to act so as to maximize the satisfaction of one’s preferences. This view is closely associated with the work of David Gauthier, and in this new collection of essays some of the most innovative philosophers currently working in this field explore the controversies surrounding Gauthier’s position. Several essays argue against influential conceptions of preference, while others suggest that received conceptions of rational action misidentify the normative significance of rules and practices.

This collection will be of particular interest to moral philosophers, social theorists, and reflective social scientists in such fields as economics, political science, and psychology.

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*Essays for David Gauthier*

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