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978-1-107-01730-6 - The Moral Challenge of Dangerous Climate Change: Values, Poverty, and Policy

Darrel Moellendorf

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THE MORAL CHALLENGE OF DANGEROUS CLIMATE CHANGE

This book examines the threat climate change poses to the projects of poverty eradication, sustainable development, and biodiversity preservation. It offers a careful discussion of the values that support these projects and a critical evaluation of the normative bases of climate change policy. This book regards climate change policy as a public problem on which normative philosophy can shed light. It assumes that the development of policy should be based on values regarding what is important to respect, preserve, and protect. What sort of climate change policy do we owe the poor of the world who are particularly vulnerable to climate change? Why should our generation take on the burden of mitigating climate change that is caused, in no small part, by emissions from people now dead? What value is lost when natural species go extinct, as they may well do en masse because of climate change? This book presents a broad and inclusive discussion of climate change policy, relevant to those with interests in public policy, development studies, environmental studies, political theory, and moral and political philosophy.

Darrel Moellendorf is Professor of International Political Theory and Professor of Philosophy at Johann Wolfgang Goethe Universität Frankfurt am Main. He is the author of *Cosmopolitan Justice* (2002) and *Global Inequality Matters* (2009). He coedited *Jurisprudence* (2004, with Christopher J. Roederer), *Current Debates in Global Justice* (2005, with Gillian Brock), *Global Justice: Seminal Essays* (2008, with Thomas Pogge), and *The Handbook of Global Ethics* (2014, with Heather Widdows). He has been a member of the School of Social Sciences at the Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton), a recipient of DAAD and NEH Fellowships, and a Senior Fellow at Justitia Amplificata at Goethe Universität Frankfurt and the Forschungskolleg Humanwissenschaften, Bad Homburg.

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The Moral Challenge of Dangerous Climate Change

VALUES, POVERTY, AND POLICY

DARREL MOELLENDORF

Johann Wolfgang Goethe Universität

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*For Bonnie and Marino with whom I have shared sunrises and
snowstorms in the Colorado Desert*

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I open the books on Right and on ethics; I listen to the professors and jurists; and, my mind full of their seductive doctrines, I admire the peace and justice established by the civil order; I bless the wisdom of our political institutions and, knowing myself a citizen, cease to lament I am a man. Thoroughly instructed as to my duties and my happiness, I close the book, step out of the lecture room, and look around me. I see wretched nations groaning beneath a yoke of iron. I see mankind ground down by a handful of oppressors. I see a famished mob, worn down by sufferings and famine, while the rich drink the blood and tears of their victims at their ease.

– Jean Jacques Rousseau

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Acknowledgments

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