The Prisoner’s Dilemma

The Prisoner’s Dilemma is one of the most fiercely debated thought experiments in philosophy and the social sciences, presenting the simple insight that when two or more agents interact, the actions that most benefit each individual may not benefit the group. The fact that when you do what is best for you, and I do what is best for me, we end up in a situation that is worse for both of us makes the Prisoner’s Dilemma relevant to a broad range of everyday phenomena. This volume of new essays from leading philosophers, game theorists, and economists examines the ramifications of the Prisoner’s Dilemma, the directions in which it continues to lead us, and its links to a variety of topics in philosophy, political science, social science, economics, and evolutionary biology. The volume will be a vital and accessible resource for upper-level students as well as for academic researchers.

Martin Peterson is Sue and Harry E. Bovay Professor in the Department of Philosophy at Texas A&M University. His recent publications include Non-Bayesian Decision Theory (2008), An Introduction to Decision Theory (Cambridge, 2009), and The Dimensions of Consequentialism (Cambridge, 2013).
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Over the centuries, a number of individual arguments have formed a crucial part of philosophical enquiry. The volumes in this series examine these arguments, looking at the ramifications and applications which they have come to have, the challenges which they have encountered, and the ways in which they have stood the test of time.

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The Prisoner’s Dilemma
Edited by Martin Peterson

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The Original Position
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