

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-03961-1 - Frames of Deceit: A Study of the Loss and Recovery of Public and Private Trust

Peter Johnson

Frontmatter

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Frames of Deceit is a philosophical investigation of the nature of trust in public and private life. It examines how trust originates, how it is challenged, and how it is recovered when moral and political imperatives collide.

In politics, rulers may be called upon to act badly for the sake of a political good, and in private life intimate attachments are formed in which the costs of betrayal are high. This book asks how trust is tested by human goods, moral character, and power relations. The author explores whether an individual's experience of betrayal differs totally from that of a community when it loses and then seeks to recover a vital public trust.

Although this is a work of political philosophy it is distinctive in examining three literary texts – Sophocles' *Philoctetes*, Shakespeare's *Troilus and Cressida*, and Zola's *Thérèse Raquin* – in order to deepen our understanding of the place of trust in morality and politics.

This is a book of interest to moral and political philosophers as well as to literary theorists.

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For my nieces and nephews

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It is a big affair our Trust.

F. W. Maitland,

Collected Essays

If anyone, then, is to practise deception,
either on the country's enemies or on its
citizens, it must be the rulers of the
commonwealth, acting for its benefit;
no one else may meddle with this privilege.

Plato, *Republic*

Wilt thou make trust a transgression? The
transgression is in the stealer.

William Shakespeare, *Much Ado About Nothing*

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Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page</i> ix
Introduction	1
1 Public and private trust	5
2 Dirty hands and moral character	27
3 Trust and political morality	53
4 Origins and agents	76
5 Risks and rewards	106
6 Forgetting and forgiveness	136
Conclusion	166
<i>Notes</i>	174
<i>Bibliography</i>	196
<i>Index</i>	209

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