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978-0-521-14494-0 - Thoughtful Economic Man: Essays on Rationality, Moral Rules and Benevolence

Edited by J. Gay Tulip Meeks

Frontmatter

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This collection of essays by celebrated authors centres on ideas of rationality and morality in economics. Recurrent themes are how to pursue and to model our acknowledged concern for others; and whether actual decision processes under uncertainty suggest standard theory needs to be revised: they are discussed from a wide range of perspectives, orthodox and radical, by a distinguished set of authors.

The contributors to the book are Frank Hahn, Amartya Sen, David Collard, Alan Ryan, Anthony Cramp, John Broome, Robin Matthews, and the editor, Gay Meeks.

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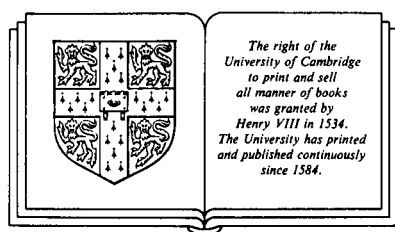
# Thoughtful economic man

## Essays on rationality, moral rules and benevolence

*Edited by*

J. Gay Tulip Meeks

*Fellow of Robinson College, Cambridge*



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## Preface

The origin of this book is the graduate course on philosophical issues in economics which I teach as part of the programme for the degree of M.Phil. in Economics at the University of Cambridge. I started to organise a series of seminars for this fairly novel course in 1980 and was somewhat surprised but very pleased both by the enthusiasm of its members and by the willingness of famous men to come and speak about questions of economic rationality and morality. It then seemed appropriate that their contributions should reach a wider audience; and so this collection of essays began.

It began some years ago. I am very grateful to the authors for their participation but even more grateful for their amazing patience with this most tardy editor: it is fortunate that the subjects of their papers are relatively timeless (the majority were actually written in 1985). Nearly all the essays were presented to the philosophical issues seminar at some stage and some have been kept in much their original form, with only minor changes; other essays were written specifically for publication; and so there is what I hope will be a refreshing variety of tone. My thanks are also due to those who have supported this interdisciplinary seminar series over the past decade, most particularly to the succession of very talented graduate students who have stimulated the whole project with their keen insight into the links between philosophy and economics.

Gay Meeks