

Cambridge University Press

0521472792 - Making Sense of Humanity: And Other Philosophical Papers 1982-1993

Bernard Williams

Frontmatter

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This new volume of philosophical papers by Bernard Williams is divided into three sections: the first, 'Action, freedom, responsibility', the second, 'Philosophy, evolution and the human sciences', in which appears the essay which gives the collection its title, and the third, 'Ethics', some of the essays in which are closely related to his 1985 book *Ethics and the limits of philosophy*.

Like the two earlier volumes of Williams's papers published by Cambridge University Press, *Problems of the self* and *Moral luck*, this volume will be welcomed by all readers with a serious interest in philosophy. It is published alongside a volume of essays on Williams's work, *World, mind and ethics: essays on the ethical philosophy of Bernard Williams*, edited by J. E. J. Altham and Ross Harrison, which provides a reappraisal of his work by other distinguished thinkers in the field.

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For
Jonathan

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Preface

This is a collection of philosophical papers that I have published since 1982. It includes one paper, 'Resenting one's own existence', that has not been published before (though some of the material in it has been). I have made small revisions, at least, to most of the papers, and one or two, in particular the first chapter, have been substantially rewritten.

I have not included reviews, replies, or pieces that seemed too closely tied to their occasions. I have also left out some essays in the history of philosophy, because their topics were too distant from the rest of the collection, and one or two papers that overlapped too much with my book *Ethics and the Limits of Philosophy*, which was published in 1985. I have included, however, some papers that are quite closely related to that book but which, I hope, contain enough that is independent of it: in particular, 'The point of view of the universe' (about Henry Sidgwick), and 'Ethics and the fabric of the world' (about J. L. Mackie). I have added some cross-references between the chapters, to *Ethics and the Limits of Philosophy*, and to a more recent book, *Shame and Necessity* (published in 1993).

The chapters originally appeared as follows, and I am grateful to those who have given permission to reprint:

(1) the Lindley Lecture, University of Kansas, 1985; (2) the Hart Lecture, Oxford, 1987: 10 *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies* (1989); (3) *Logos* 10 (1989), Santa Clara University, CA; (4) *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* 92 (1992/3); (5) in *Virtues and Reasons*, ed. R. Hursthouse, G. Lawrence and W. Quinn (Essays for Philippa Foot) (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995); (6) *European Journal of Philosophy* 1:1 (1993); (7) lecture given to the Stanford University Centennial Conference, 1987, and published in James Sheehan and Morton Sosna (eds.), *The Boundaries of Humanity: humans, animals, machines*, (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1991); (8)

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shortened version of a Herbert Spencer Lecture, given at Oxford in 1986, under the title 'Evolutionary theory: epistemology and ethics', and published in *Evolution and its Influence*, ed. Alan Grafen (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1989); (9) lecture in a Darwin Centennial series at Cambridge, and published in *Evolution from Molecules to Men*, ed. D. S. Bendall (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983); (10) in *Trust: making and breaking co-operative relations*, ed. Diego Gambetta (Oxford: Blackwell, 1988); (11) *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* 85 (1984/5); (12) inaugural lecture at Oxford: a shortened version published in *London Review of Books*, 29 August 1991; (13) the Henry Sidgwick Memorial Lecture, Newnham College, Cambridge, published in *The Cambridge Review*, 7 May 1982; (14) in *Morality and Objectivity*, ed. Ted Honderich (Essays for J. L. Mackie) (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1985); (15) in *Human Agency: language, duty and value*, ed. J. Moravcsik and C. C. W. Taylor (Essays for J. O. Urmson) (Stanford University Press, 1988); (16) in *The Good Lawyer*, ed. David Luban (Totowa, NY: Rowman and Allenheld, 1983); (17) a Royal Institute of Philosophy Lecture, 1992, in *Ethics*, ed. A. Phillips Griffiths (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993); (18) in *Moral Dilemmas in Modern Medicine*, ed. Michael Lockwood (Oxford University Press, 1988), and incorporating additional material from 'Types of moral argument in embryo research', in *Human Embryo Research: yes or no?* (CIBA Foundation, 1986); (19) unpublished, but based in part on 'Who might I have been?', in *Human Genetic Information: science, law and ethics* (CIBA Foundation, 1990); (20) in *Ethics and the Environment*, ed. C. C. W. Taylor (Corpus Christi College, Oxford, 1992); (21) in *Moral Luck*, ed. Daniel Statman (Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 1993).

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