

Papers in ethics and social philosophy

This is part of a three-volume collection of most of David Lewis's papers in philosophy, except for those which previously appeared in his *Philosophical Papers* (Oxford University Press, 1983 and 1986). They are now offered in a readily accessible form.

This third volume is devoted to Lewis's work in ethics and social philosophy. Topics covered include the logic of obligation and permission; decision theory and its relation to the idea that beliefs might play the motivating role of desires; a subjectivist analysis of value; dilemmas in virtue ethics; the problem of evil; problems about self-prediction; social coordination, linguistic and otherwise; alleged duties to rescue distant strangers; toleration as a tacit treaty; nuclear warfare; and punishment.

The purpose of this collection, and the two preceding volumes, is to disseminate more widely the work of an eminent and influential contemporary philosopher. The volume will serve as a useful work of reference for teachers and students of philosophy.

David Lewis is Professor of Philosophy at Princeton University.



CAMBRIDGE STUDIES IN PHILOSOPHY

General editor ERNEST SOSA (Brown University)

Advisory editors:

JONATHAN DANCY (University of Reading)

JOHN HALDANE (University of St. Andrews)

GILBERT HARMAN (Princeton University)

FRANK JACKSON (Australian National University)

WILLIAM G. LYCAN (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

SYDNEY SHOEMAKER (Cornell University)

JUDITH J. THOMSON (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

RECENT TITLES

LYNNE RUDDER BAKER Explaining attitudes

ROBERT A. WILSON Cartesian psychology and physical minds

BARRY MAUND Colours

MICHAEL DEVITT Coming to our senses

MICHAEL ZIMMERMAN The concept of moral obligation

MICHAEL STOCKER WITH ELIZABETH HEGEMAN Valuing emotions

SYDNEY SHOEMAKER The first-person persepctive and other essays

NORTON NELKIN Consciousness and the origins of thought

MARK LANCE and JOHN O'LEARY HAWTHORNE The grammar of

meaning

D. M. ARMSTRONG A world of states of affairs
PIERRE JACOB What minds can do
ANDRE GALLOIS The world without the mind within
FRED FELDMAN Utilitarianism, hedonism, and desert
LAURENCE BONJOUR In defense of pure reason
DAVID LEWIS Papers in philosophical logic
WAYNE DAVIS Implicature
DAVID COCKBURN Other times
DAVID LEWIS Papers in metaphysics and epistemology
RAYMOND MARTIN Self-concern
ANNETTE BARNES Seeing through self-deception
MICHAEL BRATMAN Faces of intention
AMIE THOMASSON Fiction and metaphysics



Papers in ethics and social philosophy

DAVID LEWIS

Princeton University





PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK http://www.cup.cam.ac.uk 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA http://www.cup.org 10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain

© David Lewis 2000

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2000

Typeface Bembo 10.5/13 pt System DeskTopPro_{/UX}® [BV]

A catalog record for this book is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Lewis, David K., 1941-

Papers in ethics and social philosophy / David Lewis.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-521-58249-0. – ISBN 0-521-58786-7 (pbk.)
1. Ethics. 2. Social sciences – Philosophy. I. Title.
BJ1012.L485 1999

BJ1012.L485 1999 170 – dc21

99-11534 CIP

·

ISBN 0 521 58249 0 hardback ISBN 0 521 58786 7 paperback

Transferred to digital printing 2004



For the philosophers, past and present, of Melbourne



Contents

Introduction		page 1
1	Semantic analyses for dyadic deontic logic	5
2	A problem about permission	20
3	Reply to McMichael	34
4	Why ain'cha rich?	37
5	Desire as belief	42
6	Desire as belief II	55
7	Dispositional theories of value	68
8	The trap's dilemma	95
9	Evil for freedom's sake?	101
10	Do we believe in penal substitution?	128
11	Convention: Reply to Jamieson	136
12	Meaning without use: Reply to Hawthorne	145
13	Illusory innocence?	152
14	Mill and Milquetoast	159
15	Academic appointments: Why ignore the advantage of	
	being right?	187
16	Devil's bargains and the real world	201
17	Buy like a MADman, use like a NUT	219
18	The punishment that leaves something to chance	227
19	Scriven on human unpredictability (with Jane S.	
	Richardson)	244
Index		251

ix