Rational Commitment and Social Justice

Essays for Gregory Kavka

Gregory S. Kavka (1947–1994) was a prominent and influential figure in contemporary moral and political philosophy. The new essays in this volume are concerned with fundamental issues of rational commitment and social justice to which Kavka devoted his work as a philosopher. The essays take Kavka's work as a point of departure and seek to advance the respective debates. The topics include the relationship between intention and moral action (as part of which Kavka's famous "toxin puzzle" is a focus of discussion), the nature of deterrence, the rationality of morals, contractarian ethics, and the contemporary relevance of Hobbes' political thought.

Incorporating important new philosophical statements of problems and fresh contributions to the ongoing debate about rational intention, this volume will interest not only philosophers but also political scientists and economists.

Contributors: Christopher W. Morris, Tyler Burge, Brian Skyrms, Daniel M. Farrell, David Gauthier, Michael E. Bratman, Gilbert Harman, Edwin Curley, S. A. Lloyd, Jean Hampton, Gary Watson, Jeff McMahan.



Gregory S. Kavka (Photo courtesy of Terence Parsons.)

Rational Commitment and Social Justice

Essays for Gregory Kavka

Edited by

JULES L. COLEMAN CHRISTOPHER W. MORRIS



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

32 Avenue of the Americas, New York NY 10013-2473, USA

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521631792

© Cambridge University Press 1998

This publication 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 1998

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Rational commitment and social justice : essays for Gregory Kavka / edited by Jules L. Coleman, Christopher W. Morris. p. cm.

ISBN 0-521-63179-3 (hardbound)

1. Social justice. 2. Commitment (Psychology) I. Coleman, Jules L. II. Morris, Christopher W. III. Kavka, Gregory S., 1947–1994. JC578.R365 1998 303.372-dc 21 98-20681

CIP

ISBN 978-0-521-63179-2 Hardback ISBN 978-0-521-04202-4 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Contents

Acknowledgments	<i>page</i> vii
List of Contributors	viii
Introduction: The Moral and Political Philosophy of Gregory Kavka CHRISTOPHER W. MORRIS	1
Some Personal Memories TYLER BURGE	9
The Shadow of the Future BRIAN SKYRMS	12
A New Paradox of Deterrence DANIEL M. FARRELL	22
Rethinking the Toxin Puzzle DAVID GAUTHIER	47
Toxin, Temptation, and the Stability of Intention MICHAEL E. BRATMAN	59
The Toxin Puzzle GILBERT HARMAN	84
Religion and Morality in Hobbes EDWIN CURLEY	90
Contemporary Uses of Hobbes's Political Philosophy S. A. LLOYD	122
The Knavish Humean JEAN HAMPTON	150
Some Considerations in Favor of Contractualism GARY WATSON	168
Justice, Reasons, and Moral Standing CHRISTOPHER W. MORRIS	186
Wrongful Life: Paradoxes in the Morality of Causing People to Exist JEFF MCMAHAN	t 208
Gregory S. Kavka's Writings	249

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to our editor at Cambridge University Press, Terence Moore, for his support in making this collection of essays commemorating our colleague and friend Gregory Kavka possible and to several anonymous referees for the Press for useful comments and suggestions. We also wish to thank our contributors for their advice, especially the late Jean Hampton, who was particularly helpful, and our thanks to Gary Watson for bringing us together for a conference held in Greg's honor ("Rationality, Commitment, and Community") at the University of California at Irvine, February 10–12, 1995, where seven of the essays published here were first presented.

Contributors

Michael E. Bratman, Howard H. and Jessie T. Watkins University Professor of Philosophy, Stanford University
Tyler Burge, Professor of Philosophy, University of California, Los Angeles
Jules L. Coleman, John A. Garver Professor of Jurisprudence and Philosophy, Yale Law School
Edwin Curley, Professor of Philosophy, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Daniel M. Farrell, Professor of Philosophy, Ohio State University
David Gauthier, Distinguished Service Professor of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh
Jean Hampton, late Professor of Philosophy, University of Arizona
Gilbert Harman, Professor of Philosophy, Princeton University
S. A. Lloyd, Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Southern California
Jeff McMahan, Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Illinois, Urbana–Champaign
Christopher W. Morris, Professor of Philosophy, Bowling Green State University
Brian Skyrms, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, University of California, Irvine
Gary Watson, Professor of Philosophy, University of California, Irvine