### SELF-BLAME AND MORAL RESPONSIBILITY

Self-blame is an integral part of our lives. We often blame ourselves for our failings and experience familiar unpleasant emotions such as guilt, shame, regret, or remorse. Self-blame is also what we often aim for when we blame others: we want the people we blame to recognize their wrongdoing and blame themselves for it. Moreover, self-blame is typically considered a necessary condition for forgiveness. However, until now, self-blame has not been an integral part of the theoretical debate on moral responsibility. This volume presents twelve new essays by leading moral philosophers, who set out bold theories of the nature and ethics of self-blame, and the interconnection between self-blame and moral responsibility. The essays cast new light on traditional problems in the debate on moral responsibility and open exciting avenues for research in moral philosophy, moral psychology, and the philosophy of punishment.

ANDREAS BREKKE CARLSSON is Associate Professor at the Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences. He is the author of several articles on blameworthiness, guilt, and shame.

# CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press 978-1-009-17925-6 — Self-Blame and Moral Responsibility Edited by Andreas Brekke Carlsson Frontmatter <u>More Information</u>

# SELF-BLAME AND MORAL Responsibility

EDITED BY

ANDREAS BREKKE CARLSSON

Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences



# CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press 978-1-009-17925-6 — Self-Blame and Moral Responsibility Edited by Andreas Brekke Carlsson Frontmatter <u>More Information</u>



University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

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/9781009179256 DOI: 10.1017/9781009179263

© Cambridge University Press 2022

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 2022

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

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data NAMES: Carlsson, Andreas, author. TITLE: Self-blame and moral responsibility / edited by Andreas Brekke Carlsson, Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences. DESCRIPTION: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, USA : Cambridge University Press, 2022. | Includes bibliographical references and index. IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2021059297 | ISBN 9781009179256 (hardback) | ISBN 9781009179263 (ebook) SUBJECTS: LCSH: Faultfinding. | Blame. | Criticism, Personal. | Responsibility. | BISAC: PHILOSOPHY / Ethics & Moral Philosophy CLASSIFICATION: LCC BJ1535.F3 \$45 2022 | DDC 158.2–dc23/eng/20220121 LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2021059297

#### ISBN 978-1-009-17925-6 Hardback

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

|                                  | st of Contributors<br>knowledgments   | <i>page</i> vii<br>viii |
|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
|                                  | troduction<br>Idreas Brekke Carlsson  | I                       |
| ΡA                               | RT I THE NATURE OF SELF-BLAME   | 9                       |
| I                                | The Motivational Theory of Guilt (and Its Implications<br>for Responsibility)<br><i>Justin D'Arms and Daniel Jacobson</i>       | II                      |
| 2                                | The Trials and Tribulations of Tom Brady: Self-Blame,<br>Self-Talk, Self-Flagellation<br><i>David Shoemaker</i>                 | 28                      |
| 3                                | A Comprehensive Account of Blame: Self-Blame, Non-Moral<br>Blame, and Blame for the Non-Voluntary<br><i>Douglas W. Portmore</i> | 48                      |
| 4                                | A Forward-Looking Account of Self-Blame<br>Derk Pereboom  | 77                      |
| PART II THE ETHICS OF SELF-BLAME |   | 95                      |
| 5                                | How Much to Blame? An Asymmetry between the Norms<br>of Self-Blame and Other-Blame<br><i>Dana Kay Nelkin</i>                    | 97                      |
| 6                                | Don't Suffer in Silence: A Self-Help Guide for Self-Blame<br><i>Hannah Tierney</i>  | 117                     |

| vi    | Contents   |     |
|-------|--|-----|
| 7     | How Should We Feel about Recalcitrant Emotions?<br>Krista K. Thomason                                    | 134 |
| PA    | RT III SELF-BLAME AND MORAL RESPONSIBILITY   | 149 |
| 8     | Guilt and Self-Blame within a Conversational Theory<br>of Moral Responsibility<br><i>Michael McKenna</i> | 151 |
| 9     | Deserved Guilt and Blameworthiness over Time<br>Andreas Brekke Carlsson                                  | 175 |
| IO    | Blame, Deserved Guilt, and Harms to Standing <i>Gunnar Björnsson</i>                                     | 198 |
| II    | Reason to Feel Guilty<br>Randolph Clarke and Piers Rawling   | 217 |
| Ref   | Ferences   | 237 |
| Index |  | 253 |

## Contributors

- GUNNAR BJÖRNSSON is Professor of Practical Philosophy at Stockholm University.
- ANDREAS BREKKE CARLSSON is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences.

RANDOLPH CLARKE is Professor of Philosophy at Florida State University.

- JUSTIN D'ARMS is Professor of Philosophy at Ohio State University.
- DANIEL JACOBSON is Bruce D. Benson Professor of Philosophy at the University of Colorado, Boulder.
- MICHAEL MCKENNA is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Arizona.
- DANA KAY NELKIN is Professor of Philosophy at the University of California San Diego and Affiliate Professor at the University of San Diego School of Law.
- DERK PEREBOOM is Susan Linn Sage Professor of Philosophy and Ethics at Cornell University.
- DOUGLAS W. PORTMORE is Professor of Philosophy at Arizona State University.
- PIERS RAWLING is Professor of Philosophy at Florida State University.
- DAVID SHOEMAKER is Professor of Philosophy at the Sage School of Philosophy, Cornell University.
- KRISTA K. THOMASON is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Swarthmore College.
- HANNAH TIERNEY is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of California, Davis.

# Acknowledgments

I would like to thank the authors for their contributions. Most of the chapters in this volume were presented at the workshop "Self-Blame and Moral Responsibility" at the University of Oslo, in September 2019. I am very grateful to the Centre for the Study of Mind in Nature and ConceptLab, both at the University of Oslo, which generously provided funding for this event. Thanks to all the participants of the workshop for helpful feedback on the papers. I am grateful to Hilary Gaskin, and Thomas Haynes at Cambridge University Press and to Suganiya Karumbayeeram at Lumina Datamatics Limited. Special thanks to Dana Nelkin and Michael McKenna for their support with this volume.