Nietzsche, a trained philologist, frequently urges his readers to interpret him carefully. In this book, Mark Alfano combines detailed close reading with digital methods (corpus analysis and semantic network visualization) to reframe our understanding of this major figure. He argues that virtue is a neglected concept in Nietzsche’s writings, and sets out a fresh interpretation of Nietzschean virtues as well-calibrated drives. As different people embody different constellations of drives, so virtues differ from person to person. For Nietzsche himself, Alfano argues, five virtues are essential: curiosity, courage, a sense of humor, and pathos of distance (that is, contemptuousness) toward one’s self and toward one’s society. This innovative and original book will be invaluable for historians of philosophy, contemporary researchers in moral psychology and virtue theory, and philosophers interested in the fast-growing methodologies of the digital humanities.

Mark Alfano is Associate Professor of Ethics and Philosophy of Technology at Delft University of Technology. He is the author of Character as Moral Fiction (Cambridge University Press, 2013) and Moral Psychology: An Introduction (2016).
NIETZSCHE’S MORAL PSYCHOLOGY

MARK ALFANO

Australian Catholic University and Delft University of Technology
For my teachers, whom I would repay badly
by remaining only a pupil
We should admit to ourselves with all due severity exactly what will be necessary for a long time to come and what is provisionally correct, namely: collecting material, formulating concepts, and putting into order the tremendous realm of tender value feelings and value distinctions that live, grow, reproduce, and are destroyed, – and, perhaps, attempting to illustrate the recurring and more frequent shapes of this living crystallization, – all of which would be a preparation for a typology of morals. Of course, people have not generally been this modest.

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Acknowledgments

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Throughout these years, I have appreciated the support of my friends and colleagues. I don’t know what would have become of me without my wife, friend, and sometimes coauthor Veronica. Many other friends appeared when I most needed them, especially Brian Min and Jose Montes. I also benefited from the personal and professional support of many colleagues. I’m sure that in this list I’ll neglect some who deserve mention, so I apologize here in advance. Among my former colleagues at Oregon, I am especially grateful to Gus Skorburg, Phil Mayo, Naomi Zack, Colin Koopman, Nicolai Morar, Azim Shariff, Sanjay Srivastava, Holly Arrow, Elliot Berkman, and Jacob Levernier. At Delft University of Technology, I’m especially grateful to Jeroen van den Hoven and Sabine Roeser for their support during the difficult time of my international relocation.

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Abbreviations of Nietzsche’s Works and Translations

A The Antichrist
AOM Assorted Opinions and Maxims
BGE Beyond Good and Evil
BT The Birth of Tragedy
CW The Case of Wagner
D Daybreak
DS David Strauss, the Confessor and the Writer
EH Ecce Homo
GM On the Genealogy of Morals
GS The Gay Science
HH Human, All-Too-Human
HL On the Uses and Disadvantages of History for Life
KSA Kritische Studienausgabe
NCW Nietzsche Contra Wagner
RWB Richard Wagner in Bayreuth
SE Schopenhauer as Educator
TI Twilight of the Idols
UM Untimely Meditations
WS The Wanderer and His Shadow
Z Thus Spoke Zarathustra

I use the following translations of Nietzsche’s works, with occasional minor edits and corrections.


List of Abbreviations


