MORAL PHILOSOPHY IN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY BRITAIN

The long eighteenth century is a crucial period in the history of ethics, when our moral relations to God, ourselves, and others were minutely examined and our duties, rights, and virtues systematically and powerfully presented. Colin Heydt charts the history of practical morality – what we ought to do and to be – from the 1670s, when practical ethics arising from Protestant natural law gained an institutional foothold in England, to early British responses to the French Revolution around 1790. He examines the conventional philosophical positions concerning the content of morality and utilizes those conventions to reinterpret the work of key figures including Locke, Hume, and Smith. Heydt shows how studying these conventional positions challenges our assumptions about the originality, intended audience, and aims of philosophical argument during this period. His rich and readable book will appeal to a range of scholars and students.

Colin Heydt is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of South Florida. His work has been published in numerous journals and he is the author of *Rethinking Mill’s Ethics: Character and Aesthetic Education* (2006).
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God, Self, and Other

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