

Introduction

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INTRODUCTION

The Department of Philosophy of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro held its ninth annual symposium on March 29–31, 1985, the topic of which was *Rationality and Moral Values*. Essays by the five principal speakers, Stephen Darwall, Patricia Greenspan, Lawrence Blum, Norman Dahl, and Dan Brock, are included in this issue. Commentators on these papers were, respectively, Thomas Hill, Jr. (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), Harvey Green (Tulane University), Laurence Thomas (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), Terrance McConnell (University of North Carolina at Greensboro), and Lance Stell (Davidson College). Commentaries are not included here due to considerations of length and because they were taken into account in the preparation of the final versions of the essays. The symposium papers deal with many fundamental issues in ethical theory, including the relationship between judgments of moral character and act evaluations (Darwall, Dahl), the proper domain of the moral (Blum), the nature and significance of moral emotions (Greenspan, Blum), and the value of prolonging human life (Brock). Sprinkled throughout the essays are discussions of key historical figures, such as Butler, Kant, Moore, and Prichard, and the clash between consequentialist and non-consequentialist theories is also touched on in several papers. In addition, the views of influential contemporary ethicists, such as Thomas Nagel, Samuel Scheffler, and Bernard Williams are discussed by several of the symposiasts.

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