

RECONSTRUCTING PUBLIC REASON

ERIC MACGILVRAY

Reconstructing Public Reason

Shane Ralston



Reconstructing Public Reason:

Reconstructing Public Reason Eric MacGilvray, 2004-12-30 MacGilvray argues that we should shift our attention away from the problem of identifying uncontroversial public ends in the present and toward the problem of evaluating potentially controversial public ends through collective inquiry over time

Public Reason Fred M. Frohock, 2019-06-07 In this meditation on the different ways in which contemporary society construes the notion of political reason Fred M Frohock offers an alternative to the merit forms of reasoning prominent in liberal democracies He argues that divisive issues such as abortion and physician assisted suicide resist rational closure reasonable individuals often reach different and contradictory conclusions The temptation is to abandon reason and depict governing as an exercise of pure power What resources do we have Frohock asks to develop a version of public reason which can succeed even in the deep pluralism anticipated in democratic practices Frohock makes a provocative argument the effects of divisive beliefs can be mitigated with a version of public reason defined as mediated speech acts These acts are dialogues on the model of a guided conversation in which collective terms dominate simple merit adjudication This type of public reasoning requires a survey of considerations beyond the merits of the case at hand Frohock's book combines theory and illustrative cases to present an unusually broad survey of public reasoning in which abstract arguments are developed in the context of highly charged contemporary issues

Reconstructing Human Rights Joe Hoover, 2016-05-27 We live in a human rights world The language of human rights claims and numerous human rights institutions shape almost all aspects of our political lives yet we struggle to know how to judge this development Scholars give us good reason to be both supportive and sceptical of the universal claims that human rights enable alternatively suggesting that they are pillars of cross cultural understanding of justice or the ideological justification of a violent and exclusionary global order All too often however our evaluations of our human rights world are not based on sustained consideration of their complex ambiguous and often contradictory consequences *Reconstructing Human Rights* argues that human rights are only as good as the ends they help us realise We must attend to what ethical principles actually do in the world to know their value So for human rights we need to consider how the identity of humanity and the concept of rights shape our thinking structure our political activity and contribute to social change *Reconstructing Human Rights* defends human rights as a tool that should enable us to challenge political authority and established constellations of political membership by making new claims possible Human rights mobilise the identity of humanity to make demands upon the terms of legitimate authority and challenges established political memberships In this work it is argued that this tool should be guided by a democratising ethos in pursuit of that enables claims for more democratic forms of politics and more inclusive political communities While this work directly engages with debates about human rights in philosophy and political theory in connecting our evaluations of the value of human rights to their worldly consequences it will also be of interest to scholars considering human rights across disciplines including Law Sociology and Anthropology

Public Reason and Applied Ethics Adela Cortina, Domingo García-Marzá, 2017-05-15 Examining the theoretical and empirical status of applied ethics this volume demonstrates how a pluralistic and democratic society can deal with ethical issues in the light of its moral conscience The volume first sets the stage for a conception of applied ethics as applications of transnational civil ethics based both on a discourse theory of knowledge Apel Habermas and on an activities and capabilities approach Aristotle Sen It then examines how applied ethics relates to important theoretical discussions in philosophy such as constructivism virtue ethics hermeneutic and deliberative theory The contributors discuss applied ethics in light of globalization and identify recurring dilemmas as well as the problem of universal norms They close by considering two aspects of the institutional point of view republicanism and contractarianism and constitutional economics John Dewey's Great Debates - Reconstructed Shane Ralston, 2011-11-01 Confirming his moniker as America's philosopher of democracy John Dewey engaged in a series of public debates over the course of his lifetime vividly demonstrating how his thought translates into action These debates made Dewey a household name and a renowned public intellectual during the early to mid twentieth century a time when the United States fought two World Wars struggled through an economic depression experienced explosive economic growth and spawned a grassroots movement that characterized an entire era Progressivism Unfortunately much recent Dewey scholarship neglects to situate Dewey's ideas in the broader context of his activities and engagements as a public intellectual This project charts a path through two of Dewey's actual debates with his contemporaries Leon Trotsky and Robert Hutchins to two reconstructed debates with contemporary intellectuals E D Hirsch and Robert Talisse both of whom criticized Dewey's ideas long after the American philosopher's death and finally to two recent debates one on home schooling and the other on U S foreign policy in which Dewey's ideas offer a unique and compelling vision of a way forward Reconstructing Public Philosophy William M. Sullivan, 2023-04-28 This title is part of UC Press's Voices Revived program which commemorates University of California Press's mission to seek out and cultivate the brightest minds and give them voice reach and impact Drawing on a backlist dating to 1893 Voices Revived makes high quality peer reviewed scholarship accessible once again using print on demand technology This title was originally published in 1986 *Demanding Democracy* Marc Stears, 2013-03-03 What today's political thinkers can learn from the radical democratic movements of twentieth century America This is a major work of history and political theory that traces radical democratic thought in America across the twentieth century seeking to recover ideas that could reenergize democratic activism today The question of how citizens should behave as they struggle to create a more democratic society has haunted the United States throughout its history Should citizens restrict themselves to patient persuasion or take to the streets and seek to impose change Marc Stears argues that anyone who continues to wrestle with these questions could learn from the radical democratic tradition that was forged in the twentieth century by political activists including progressives trade unionists civil rights campaigners and members of the student New Left These activists and their movements insisted that

American campaigners for democratic change should be free to strike out in whatever ways they thought necessary so long as their actions enhanced the political virtues of citizens and contributed to the eventual triumph of the democratic cause

Reevaluating the moral and strategic arguments and the triumphs and excesses of this radical democratic tradition Stears contends that it still offers a compelling account of citizen behavior one that is fairer more inclusive and more truly democratic than those advanced by political theorists today

A Companion to Mill Christopher Macleod, Dale E. Miller, 2018-04-12 This Companion offers a state of the art survey of the work of John Stuart Mill one which covers the historical influences on Mill his theoretical moral and social philosophy as well as his relation to contemporary movements Its contributors include both senior scholars with established expertise in Mill s thought and new emerging interpreters Each essay acts as a go to resource for those seeking to understand an aspect of Mill s thought or to familiarise themselves with the contours of a debate within the scholarship The Companion is a key reference on Mill s theory of liberty and utilitarianism but also provides a valuable resource on lesser known aspects of his work including his epistemology metaphysics and philosophy of language The volume is divided into six sections Part I covers Mill s life his immediate posthumous reputation and his own telling of his life story Part II brings together an accessible and comprehensive summary of the various influences on Mill s thought Part III offers an account of the foundations of Mill s philosophy and his thought on key philosophic topics Parts IV and V tackle issues from Mill s moral and social philosophy Part VI concludes with a treatment of the broader aspects of Mill s thought tracing his relation to major movements in philosophy

Knowing Democracy - A Pragmatist Account of the Epistemic Dimension in Democratic Politics Michael I. Räber, 2020-10-06 How can we justify democracy s trust in the political judgments of ordinary people In *Knowing Democracy* Michael R ber situates this question between two dominant alternative paradigms of thinking about the reflective qualities of democratic life on the one hand recent epistemic theories of democracy which are based on the assumption that political participation promotes truth and on the other hand theories of political judgment that are indebted to Hannah Arendt s aesthetic conception of political judgment By foregrounding the concept of political judgment in democracies the book shows that a democratic theory of political judgments based on John Dewey s pragmatism can navigate the shortcomings of both these paradigms While epistemic theories are overly and narrowly rationalistic and Arendtian theories are overly aesthetic the neo Deweyan conception of political judgment proposed in this book suggests a third path that combines the rationalist and the aesthetic elements of political conduct in a way that goes beyond a merely epistemic or a merely aesthetic conception of political judgment in democracy The justification for democracy s trust in ordinary people s political judgments R ber argues resides in an egalitarian conception of democratic inquiry that blends the epistemic and the aesthetic aspects of the making of political judgments By offering a rigorous scholarly analysis of the epistemic and aesthetic foundations of democracy from a pragmatist perspective *Knowing Democracy* contributes to the current debates in political epistemology and aesthetics and

politics both of which ask about the appropriate reflective and experiential circumstances of democratic politics The book brings together for the first time debates on epistemic democracy aesthetic judgment and those on pragmatist social epistemology and establishes an original pragmatist conception of epistemic democracy

Practice, Judgment, and the Challenge of Moral and Political Disagreement Roberto Frega, 2012-04-05 Practice Judgment and the Challenge of Moral and Political Disagreement A Pragmatist Account offers an account of moral and political disagreement explaining its nature and showing how we should deal with it In so doing it strikes a middle path between troublesome dualisms such as those of realism and relativism rationality and imagination power and justification To do so the book draws on the resources of the pragmatist tradition claiming that this tradition offers solutions that have for the most part been neglected by the contemporary debate To prove this claim the book provides a large account of debates within this tradition and engages its best solutions with contemporary philosophical theories such as perfectionism critical theory moral realism and liberalism The question of the nature of disagreement is addressed both at the general theoretical level and more specifically with reference to moral and political forms of disagreement At the more general level the book proposes a theory of practical rationality based upon the notion of rationality as inquiry At the second more specific level it aims to show that this conception can solve timely problems that relates to the nature of moral and political reasoning

Unveiling the Power of Verbal Art: An Mental Sojourn through **Reconstructing Public Reason**

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