

# **On the Nature of Health**

*An Action-Theoretic Approach*

**Lennart Nordenfeldt**

**Springer Science+Business Media, B.V.**

# On The Nature Of Health An Action Theoretic Approach

**Anouk Barberousse, Denis  
Bonnay, Mikael Cozic**



## **On The Nature Of Health An Action Theoretic Approach:**

On the Nature of Health L.Y Nordenfelt, 2013-03-09 GENERAL INTRODUCTION This study of the concept of health is an attempt to combine central ideas in modern philosophy of medicine with certain results from analytical action theory What emerges from the study is a concept of health based on an action theoretic foundation A person's health is characterized as his ability to achieve his vital goals The general conception is not new This study has been inspired by a number of scholars both ancient and modern The most important influences from the latter have been those of Georges Canguilhem H Tristram Engelhardt Jr Caroline Whitbeck and Ingmar Persson The novel aspect of this book consists of elaborations made to the general conception First the action theoretic platform is analysed in some detail The nature of the ability involved as well as the conditions for having that ability are specified Second the vital goals of man are given considerable attention Some previous attempts to define such vital goals are analysed and criticized A new characterization is proposed in which the vital goals are conceptually linked to the notion of happiness A person's vital goals are such states of affairs as are necessary and together sufficient for his minimal happiness Third a number of consequences of this conception are observed and analysed One issue which is particularly emphasized is that of whether the concept of health is a theoretical or a normative concept

*On the Nature of Health* L.Y Nordenfelt, 1988-10-14 GENERAL INTRODUCTION This study of the concept of health is an attempt to combine central ideas in modern philosophy of medicine with certain results from analytical action theory What emerges from the study is a concept of health based on an action theoretic foundation A person's health is characterized as his ability to achieve his vital goals The general conception is not new This study has been inspired by a number of scholars both ancient and modern The most important influences from the latter have been those of Georges Canguilhem H Tristram Engelhardt Jr Caroline Whitbeck and Ingmar Persson The novel aspect of this book consists of elaborations made to the general conception First the action theoretic platform is analysed in some detail The nature of the ability involved as well as the conditions for having that ability are specified Second the vital goals of man are given considerable attention Some previous attempts to define such vital goals are analysed and criticized A new characterization is proposed in which the vital goals are conceptually linked to the notion of happiness A person's vital goals are such states of affairs as are necessary and together sufficient for his minimal happiness Third a number of consequences of this conception are observed and analysed One issue which is particularly emphasized is that of whether the concept of health is a theoretical or a normative concept

*Health, Science, and Ordinary Language* Lennart Nordenfelt, 2022-07-04 This book is a contribution to the current philosophical discussion on the nature of health and illness It contains a comparative analysis and reevaluation of four influential contemporary theories in this field These are the biostatistical theory of Christopher Boorse which represents the mainstream thinking in medicine and three versions of a holistic and normative understanding of health and illness which are the theories of Lawrie Reznek K W M Fulford and Lennart Nordenfelt In this unusual volume of assessment Nordenfelt

critically reexamines his own theory and George Khushf and K W M Fulford contribute critical responses      **Dimensions of Health and Health Promotion**, 2021-11-08 This book contains scholarly contributions to several current debates in the philosophy of medicine and health care regarding the nature of health and health promotion concepts and measurements of mental illness phenomenological conceptions of health and illness allocation of health care resources criteria for proper medical science the clinical meeting and ethical constraints in such a meeting With one exception the authors in this book are or have been teachers or graduate students at the interdisciplinary Department of Health and Society Tema H at Linköping University Sweden While all the texts have a philosophical focus many other disciplines have influenced the choice of specific perspectives The university backgrounds of the authors range from medicine psychology sociology and religion to philosophy What binds the authors together is their deep interest in the theory of medicine and in the pursuit of a philosophy of humanistic medicine and health care      **The Oxford Handbook of Value Theory** Iwao Hirose, Jonas Olson, 2015-05-01 Value theory or axiology looks at what things are good or bad how good or bad they are and most fundamentally what it is for a thing to be good or bad Questions about value and about what is valuable are important to moral philosophers since most moral theories hold that we ought to promote the good even if this is not the only thing we ought to do This Handbook focuses on value theory as it pertains to ethics broadly construed and provides a comprehensive overview of contemporary debates pertaining not only to philosophy but also to other disciplines most notably political theory and economics The Handbook's twenty two newly commissioned chapters are divided into three parts Part I Foundations concerns fundamental and interrelated issues about the nature of value and distinctions between kinds of value Part II Structure concerns formal properties of value that bear on the possibilities of measuring and comparing value Part III Extensions finally considers specific topics ranging from health to freedom where questions of value figure prominently      *The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare: From Hands-on Practice to Policy-making* Eike-Henner W. Kluge, 2024-09-28 This book provides an ethical analysis of the ethical issues that arise in the design nature and use of AIs as they are currently used in the delivery and planning of healthcare by hands on healthcare professionals institutional administrators and social policy makers It suggests that while these issues overlap they have distinct aspects in the respective domains Among other things it distinguishing between AIs as expert systems as they are currently constituted and AIs as based in quantum computers or as constituted of bio printed material indicates how this is evolving and outlines the ethically relevant issues that would then arise      **Psychiatry Reborn: Biopsychosocial psychiatry in modern medicine** Will Davies, Julian Savulescu, Rebecca Roache, J. Pierre Loebel, 2020-10-21 Psychiatry Reborn Biopsychosocial Psychiatry in Modern Medicine is a comprehensive collection of essays by leading experts in the field and provides a timely reassessment of the biopsychosocial approach in psychiatry Spanning the sciences and philosophy of psychiatry the essays offer complementary perspectives on the ever more urgent importance of the biopsychosocial approach to modern medicine The collection brings together ideas from the series

of Loebel Lectures by world leaders in the field of psychiatry and associated Workshops at the University of Oxford including revised versions of the Lectures themselves and a wide range of related commentaries and position pieces With contributions from psychiatry psychology neuroscience and philosophy the book provides the most comprehensive account to date of the interplay between biological psychological and social factors in mental health and their ethical dimensions The 23 chapters of this multi authored book review the history and place of the biopsychosocial model in medicine and explore its strengths and shortcomings In particular it considers how understanding this interplay might lead to more effective treatments for mental health disorders as developments in genomic and neurobiological medicine challenge traditional conceptions and approaches to the research and treatment of mental health disorders The book explores the challenges and rewards of developing diagnostic tools and clinical interventions that take account of the inextricably intertwined bio psycho social domains and the ethical implications of the conceptualization It concludes with chapters drawing together the book s range of expertise to propose a best conception of the model and how it might be adopted going forward in an age of exponentially increasing technological advances and of integrated collaborative care The volume is intended to present the BPS model as it stands today in the academy the lab and the clinic and to start to address the challenges and potential that the model has for each

*Songwriting* Felicity Baker, Tony Wigram, 2005 Beskriver sangskrivning som en effektiv behandlingsmetode i musikerapeutisk henseende m m

**Psychiatry and Religion** Dinesh Bhugra, 2013-04-15 The argument of this book is that the divide between psychiatry and religion is an artificial one and that there is much room for understanding the same phenomena from different perspectives In it thirteen senior mental health professionals and pastoral workers come together to explore what their different philosophies have to offer each other for the benefit of the individuals in their care The book as a whole sets the relationship between psychiatry and religion in historical context provides detailed information about specific religions and the significance of their belief systems for mental health management examines the relationship between psychopathology psychiatry and religion

*Philosophy and Psychiatry* Thomas Schramme, Johannes Thome, 2012-08-09 Philosophy and psychiatry share many topics and problems For example the solutions of the psychiatry of the philosophical body soul problem have direct effects on the self image of the discipline Despite these obvious overlappings and unlike the English speaking countries interdisciplinary research on philosophical psychopathology has been scarce in Germany The current anthology closes these gaps because the authors renowned experts as well as young scientists whose new approaches open promising perspectives come from both disciplines The individual contributions deal with philosophical debates as they arise within the context of psychiatric theory and practice

**Genetic Turning Points** James C. Peterson, 2001 Genetic Turning Points is an outstanding study of the problem of genetic engineering and related ethical issues It addresses difficult and sometimes technical matters in a style that is both clear and scholarly and it provides valuable insights into issues that are being thrust to the fore by scientific progress Genes store the directions for all life on

earth If you want to know where we might be going read this book It is a road map that can save you from many ill fated journeys William R Shea      **The Philosophy of Science** Anouk Barberousse, Denis Bonnay, Mikael Cozic, 2018-06-28

Philosophy of science studies the methods theories and concepts used by scientists It mainly developed as a field in its own right during the twentieth century and is now a diversified and lively research area This book surveys the current state of the discipline by focusing on central themes like confirmation of scientific hypotheses scientific explanation causality the relationship between science and metaphysics scientific change the relationship between philosophy of science and science studies the role of theories and models unity of science These themes define general philosophy of science The book also presents sub disciplines in the philosophy of science dealing with the main sciences logic mathematics physics biology medicine cognitive science linguistics social sciences and economics While it is common to address the specific philosophical problems raised by physics and biology in such a book the place assigned to the philosophy of special sciences is much more unusual Most authors collaborate on a regular basis in their research or teaching and share a common vision of philosophy of science and its place within philosophy and academia in general The chapters have been written in close accordance with the three editors thus achieving strong unity of style and tone      *The Hermeneutics of Medicine and the Phenomenology of Health* Fredrik Svenaeus, 2022-07-15

This is the first monograph to deal with medicine as a form of hermeneutics now in a thoroughly revised and updated edition including a whole new chapter on medical ethics The book offers a comprehensive philosophical argument why good medical practice cannot be curtailed to scientific investigations of the body but is a form of clinical hermeneutics performed by health care professionals in dialogue with their patients Medical hermeneutics is rooted in a phenomenology of illness which acknowledges and proceeds from the ill party's bodily feelings everyday life world circumstances and self understanding in aiming to restore health The author shows how the works of classical phenomenologists and hermeneuticians Martin Heidegger Maurice Merleau Ponty Hans Georg Gadamer and Paul Ricoeur may be employed to understand how medical diagnosis is enveloped by professional empathy and clinical judgement and developed by scientific investigations of the patient's bodily condition Health and illness are ultimately considered to be ways of feeling at home or not at home in the world and such experiences are the starting point of medical hermeneutics when aiming to make best use of scientific knowledge The book is aimed at researchers and teachers in philosophy of medicine and medical ethics and at physicians nurses and other health care professionals meeting with patients in ethically complex and challenging situations Phenomenology and hermeneutics most often considered as methods belonging to the humanities are shown to be of vital importance for the understanding of medical practice and ethical dilemmas of health care      **Ethics**

**and the Metaphysics of Medicine** Kenneth A. Richman, 2004-06-18 Explores the philosophical and practical ethical implications of a definition of health as a state that allows us to reach our goals Definitions of health and disease are of more than theoretical interest Understanding what it means to be healthy has implications for choices in medical treatment for

ethically sound informed consent and for accurate assessment of policies or programs This deeper understanding can help us create more effective public policy for health and medicine It is notable that such contentious legal initiatives as the Americans with Disability Act and the Patients Bill of Rights fail to define adequately the medical terms on which their effectiveness depends In *Ethics and the Metaphysics of Medicine* Kenneth Richman develops an embedded instrumentalist theory of health and applies it to practical problems in health care and medicine addressing topics that range from the philosophy of science to knee surgery Embedded instrumentalist theories hold that health is a match between one's goals and one's ability to reach those goals and that the relevant goals may vary from individual to individual This captures the normative implications of the term health while avoiding problematic relativism Richman's embedded instrumentalism differs from other theories of health in drawing a distinction between the health of individuals as biological organisms and the health of individuals as moral agents This distinction illuminates many difficulties in patient provider communication and helps us understand conflicts between promoting health and promoting ethically permissible behavior After exploring expanding and defending this theory in the first part of the book Richman examines its ethical implications discussing such concerns as the connection between medical beneficence and respect for autonomy patient provider communication living wills and clinical education

*Health, Well-Being, and Quality of Life* Elisabetta Lalumera, 2025-05-30 This book analyses and discusses from a philosophical perspective the concepts of health well being and quality of life in contemporary biomedical research The guiding idea of the book is that different concepts of health well being and quality of life lead to different types of projects actions and policies both at the individual and institutional level For this reason it is important to analyse them and make them clear in their interweaving of objective dimensions the facts and evaluative dimensions the values

*The Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Medicine* Miriam Solomon, Jeremy R. Simon, Harold Kincaid, 2016-10-04 The Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Medicine is a comprehensive guide to topics in the fields of epistemology and metaphysics of medicine It examines traditional topics such as the concept of disease causality in medicine the epistemology of the randomized controlled trial the biopsychosocial model explanation clinical judgment and phenomenology of medicine and emerging topics such as philosophy of epidemiology measuring harms the concept of disability nursing perspectives race and gender the metaphysics of Chinese medicine and narrative medicine Each of the 48 chapters is written especially for this volume and with a student audience in mind For pedagogy and clarity each chapter contains an extended example illustrating the ideas discussed This text is intended for use as a reference for students in courses in philosophy of medicine and philosophy of science and pairs well with *The Routledge Companion to Bioethics* for use in medical humanities and social science courses

**The Fragility of Philosophy of Medicine** Lucien Karhausen, 2023-09-20 This book about philosophy of medicine bestows a bottom up and not a top down approach It starts from clinical medicine and epidemiology analyzing their interrelations with philosophical instruments The book criticizes the constant search for generalities and the essentialism

that too often characterizes this discipline which results in philosophers of medicine dialoguing with each other without direct contact with medical science In the light of Ludwig Wittgenstein s philosophy this book proposes an approach to the philosophy of medicine based on the quorum of language what Wittgenstein calls family resemblances In this way the author establishes a philosophy of medicine that is closely related to the medical clinic and to public health and as such avoids armchair philosophy Don t think but look wrote Wittgenstein

**Encyclopedia of Disability** Gary L Albrecht,2006 Presents current knowledge of and experience with disability across a wide variety of places conditions and cultures to both the general reader and the specialist

**Ending Midlife Bias** Nancy S. Jecker,2020-05-01 We live at a time when the human lifespan has increased like never before As average lifespans stretch to new lengths what impact should this have on our values Should our values change over the course of our ever increasing lifespans Nancy S Jecker coins the term the life stage relativity of values to capture the idea that at different stages of our lives different ethical concerns shift to the foreground During early life infants and small children hold dear the value of being cared for and nurtured by someone they trust and their vulnerability and dependency make these the right values for them By early adulthood and continuing into midlife the capacity for greater physical and emotional independence gives people reason to place more emphasis on autonomy and the ability to freely choose and carry out their plan of life During old age heightened risk for chronic disease and disability gives us a reason to shift our focus again emphasizing safeguarding our central capabilities and keeping our dignity and self respect intact Despite different values becoming central at different stages of life we often assume the standpoint of someone in midlife who is in the midst of planning a future adulthood that stretches out before them Jecker coins the term midlife bias to refer to the privileging of midlife Midlife bias occurs when we assume that autonomy should be our central aim at all life stages and give it priority in a wide range of ethical decisions The privileging of midlife raises fundamental problems of fairness It also suggests the possibility of large gaps in the ethical principles and theories at hand Ending Midlife Bias New Values for Old Age addresses these concerns in a step wise fashion focusing on later life Jecker first introduces a philosophical framework that extends moral theorizing to older adults addressing midlife bias the life stage relativity of values human capabilities and dignity time s passage the narrative self and justice between old and young She then turns to policy and practice and explores ethical issues in bioethics long term care personal robotic assistants care of the dying and newly dead ageism in medical research the allocation of healthcare mandatory retirement and the future of population aging

*Nietzsche, Epistemology, and Philosophy of Science* B.E. Babich,2013-03-09 Nietzsche Epistemology and Philosophy of Science is the second volume of a collection on Nietzsche and the Sciences featuring essays addressing truth epistemology and the philosophy of science with a substantial representation of analytically schooled Nietzsche scholars This collection offers a dynamic articulation of the differing strengths of Anglo American analytic and contemporary European approaches to philosophy with translations from European specialists notably Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker Paul Valadier and Walther Ch



Zimmerli This broad collection also features a preface by Alasdair MacIntyre Contributions explore Nietzsche's contributions to the philosophy of language and epistemology and include essays on the social history of truth and the historical and cultural analyses of Serres and Baudrillard as well as new contributions to the philosophy of science including theological and hermeneutical approaches history of science the philosophy of medicine cognitive science and technology

On The Nature Of Health An Action Theoretic Approach: Bestsellers in 2023 The year 2023 has witnessed a noteworthy surge in literary brilliance, with numerous compelling novels captivating the hearts of readers worldwide. Lets delve into the realm of top-selling books, exploring the captivating narratives that have enthralled audiences this year. The Must-Read : Colleen Hoover's "It Ends with Us" This heartfelt tale of love, loss, and resilience has captivated readers with its raw and emotional exploration of domestic abuse. Hoover skillfully weaves a story of hope and healing, reminding us that even in the darkest of times, the human spirit can succeed. On The Nature Of Health An Action Theoretic Approach : Taylor Jenkins Reids "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" This spellbinding historical fiction novel unravels the life of Evelyn Hugo, a Hollywood icon who defies expectations and societal norms to pursue her dreams. Reids absorbing storytelling and compelling characters transport readers to a bygone era, immersing them in a world of glamour, ambition, and self-discovery. On The Nature Of Health An Action Theoretic Approach : Delia Owens "Where the Crawdads Sing" This evocative coming-of-age story follows Kya Clark, a young woman who grows up alone in the marshes of North Carolina. Owens spins a tale of resilience, survival, and the transformative power of nature, captivating readers with its evocative prose and mesmerizing setting. These bestselling novels represent just a fraction of the literary treasures that have emerged in 2023. Whether you seek tales of romance, adventure, or personal growth, the world of literature offers an abundance of compelling stories waiting to be discovered. The novel begins with Richard Papen, a bright but troubled young man, arriving at Hampden College. Richard is immediately drawn to the group of students who call themselves the Classics Club. The club is led by Henry Winter, a brilliant and charismatic young man. Henry is obsessed with Greek mythology and philosophy, and he quickly draws Richard into his world. The other members of the Classics Club are equally as fascinating. Bunny Corcoran is a wealthy and spoiled young man who is always looking for a good time. Charles Tavis is a quiet and reserved young man who is deeply in love with Henry. Camilla Macaulay is a beautiful and intelligent young woman who is drawn to the power and danger of the Classics Club. The students are all deeply in love with Morrow, and they are willing to do anything to please him. Morrow is a complex and mysterious figure, and he seems to be manipulating the students for his own purposes. As the students become more involved with Morrow, they begin to commit increasingly dangerous acts. The Secret History is a exceptional and thrilling novel that will keep you guessing until the very end. The novel is a cautionary tale about the dangers of obsession and the power of evil.

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