

gem anscombe modern moral philosophy

****G.E.M. Anscombe and Modern Moral Philosophy: Rediscovering Ethics****

gem anscombe modern moral philosophy is a phrase that resonates deeply within contemporary ethical discussions. G.E.M. Anscombe, a towering figure in 20th-century philosophy, played a pivotal role in shaping how we think about morality today. Her critique of modern moral theories and her revival of virtue ethics have left an enduring legacy, prompting philosophers to reconsider the foundations of moral thought.

The Intellectual Context of G.E.M. Anscombe

To understand why G.E.M. Anscombe matters in modern moral philosophy, it's essential to appreciate the intellectual backdrop against which she wrote. In 1958, Anscombe published her influential essay titled **Modern Moral Philosophy**, which challenged the prevailing attitudes toward ethics. At that time, moral philosophy was dominated by utilitarianism and deontological ethics, frameworks that often focused heavily on rules, consequences, or abstract principles.

Anscombe argued that these frameworks lacked a proper philosophical foundation because they ignored important questions about human nature, intention, and virtue. Her critique was not just about pointing out flaws but about urging philosophers to return to a more Aristotelian approach — focusing on character, flourishing, and the role of practical wisdom.

What is Modern Moral Philosophy According to Anscombe?

Anscombe's essay is often credited with sparking a revival of virtue ethics, a tradition that had largely fallen out of favor. In calling for a re-examination, she highlighted several key points:

- ****The Problem of Moral Language:**** Anscombe believed that many modern moral terms, like "obligation" or "duty," were used without a clear understanding of their philosophical basis. She thought that the concept of moral obligation made little sense without a broader metaphysical and theological framework, which had been largely abandoned since the Enlightenment.
- ****The Role of Intention:**** One of Anscombe's core insights was the importance of intention in moral evaluation. She emphasized that the morality of an action cannot be judged solely by its consequences but must consider the agent's intentions. This focus helped revive interest in the philosophy of action.
- ****Critique of Consequentialism and Deontology:**** While not dismissing these theories outright, Anscombe pointed out their limitations. She suggested that their abstract nature often detaches moral reasoning from the concrete realities of human life.

The Revival of Virtue Ethics

Following her critique, Anscombe championed a return to Aristotle's virtue ethics, which focuses on developing good character traits — virtues — as the basis for moral life. Unlike rule-based theories, virtue ethics considers what kind of person one should be rather than what specific actions one should take.

Key Features of Virtue Ethics in Anscombe's Thought

- **Emphasis on Character:** Virtue ethics encourages cultivating virtues like courage, temperance, and justice. Anscombe saw this as a far more holistic way to understand morality.
- **Practical Wisdom (Phronesis):** She stressed the importance of practical wisdom, the ability to make good decisions in varying circumstances, as central to ethical behavior.
- **Eudaimonia (Flourishing):** For Anscombe, the goal of moral life is human flourishing, a concept rich with meaning beyond mere happiness or pleasure.

Anscombe's Influence on Contemporary Moral Philosophy

Anscombe's work inspired a generation of philosophers to revisit classical ethics and reconsider how moral philosophy should be conducted. Her insistence on the importance of intention influenced debates in action theory, while her revival of virtue ethics opened new avenues for ethical inquiry beyond the binary of utilitarianism and Kantianism.

Philosophers such as Alasdair MacIntyre, Philippa Foot, and Rosalind Hursthouse built upon Anscombe's insights, developing rich accounts of virtue ethics that address contemporary moral issues. This revival has impacted fields ranging from bioethics to political theory, demonstrating the practical relevance of Anscombe's ideas.

The Legacy of G.E.M. Anscombe in Moral Philosophy Today

G.E.M. Anscombe's contributions continue to resonate because she challenged philosophers to rethink foundational questions about ethics. Her work remains a touchstone for anyone interested in:

- **The nature of moral reasoning:** By focusing on intention and character rather than abstract rules or consequences alone.
- **The role of philosophy in everyday life:** Encouraging a moral framework rooted in human nature and practical realities.
- **The integration of philosophy and theology:** Even for secular thinkers, her insight that moral language requires a coherent metaphysical background remains provocative.

Why Should Modern Readers Care About Anscombe?

For those exploring ethics today, Anscombe's critique offers valuable guidance. Modern moral philosophy can sometimes feel fragmented and overly technical, but Anscombe reminds us that ethics is ultimately about living well and acting rightly.

Her approach invites us to:

- **Reflect on our intentions:** Understanding why we do what we do can deepen moral clarity.
- **Cultivate virtues:** Developing habits that promote flourishing can lead to a more meaningful life.
- **Question assumptions:** Not taking moral concepts for granted but examining their foundations critically.

Practical Insights from Anscombe's Philosophy

If you're interested in applying Anscombe's ideas, consider the following:

1. **Focus on Character Development:** Instead of just following rules, ask what virtues you want to embody and how to nurture them daily.
2. **Examine Your Intentions:** When making decisions, pause to consider your motives and whether they align with your moral values.
3. **Seek Practical Wisdom:** Recognize that moral decisions are often complex and require discernment, not rigid formulas.
4. **Engage with Classical Ethics:** Reading Aristotle alongside Anscombe can provide a richer understanding of virtue and ethics.

The Enduring Relevance of G.E.M. Anscombe

In a world where ethical dilemmas abound—from technology and medicine to politics and personal relationships—Anscombe's call to reconsider the foundations of moral philosophy is more relevant than ever. Her work challenges us to think deeply about what it means to live a good life, how to judge actions justly, and how to cultivate the virtues that sustain both individuals and communities.

Whether you are a student of philosophy or simply someone seeking a more thoughtful approach to morality, engaging with G.E.M. Anscombe's ideas offers a profound and enduring resource. Her critique of modern moral philosophy is not just an academic exercise but a living conversation about how we ought to live and act in the modern world.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was G.E.M. Anscombe and what is her significance in modern moral philosophy?

G.E.M. Anscombe was a 20th-century British philosopher known for her work in ethics, philosophy of mind, and philosophy of action. She significantly influenced modern moral philosophy by critiquing consequentialism and utilitarianism and reviving virtue ethics.

What is G.E.M. Anscombe's main critique in her essay 'Modern Moral Philosophy'?

In her essay 'Modern Moral Philosophy' (1958), Anscombe argued that modern moral philosophy is misguided because it relies on outdated concepts like 'moral obligation' without a proper metaphysical foundation, and she called for a return to Aristotelian virtue ethics.

How did Anscombe influence the revival of virtue ethics?

Anscombe's critique of modern moral philosophy highlighted the inadequacy of deontological and consequentialist frameworks and advocated for a focus on character and virtues, helping to revive Aristotelian virtue ethics as a central part of contemporary ethical discourse.

What role does the concept of 'intention' play in Anscombe's philosophy?

Anscombe emphasized the concept of 'intention' as central to understanding human action and moral responsibility, arguing that the morality of an action depends on the agent's intention rather than just the consequences or the action's conformity to rules.

How does Anscombe's work challenge utilitarianism and Kantian ethics?

Anscombe criticized utilitarianism for ignoring the moral importance of intentions and character, and she challenged Kantian ethics for relying on an abstract notion of duty detached from human psychology and virtue, advocating instead for ethics grounded in human flourishing.

What is the connection between Anscombe's philosophy and Catholic moral teaching?

Anscombe, a devout Catholic, integrated her religious beliefs with her philosophical work, emphasizing natural law and moral absolutes, which aligns with Catholic moral teaching, especially in her rejection of consequentialism and defense of virtue ethics.

Why is Anscombe's essay 'Modern Moral Philosophy'

considered a landmark in ethical theory?

Anscombe's essay is considered landmark because it exposed fundamental problems in dominant ethical theories of the time and sparked renewed interest in virtue ethics, changing the trajectory of moral philosophy in the latter half of the 20th century.

How does Anscombe's idea of 'moral obligation' differ from traditional views?

Anscombe argued that the modern concept of 'moral obligation' is unintelligible without a teleological framework (purpose-driven understanding of human life), which was lost after the decline of Aristotelian philosophy, making many contemporary moral claims problematic.

What impact has Anscombe had on contemporary debates about ethics and morality?

Anscombe's work has had a lasting impact by encouraging philosophers to reconsider virtue ethics, the role of intention, and the foundations of moral language, influencing contemporary discussions in applied ethics, moral psychology, and meta-ethics.

Additional Resources

Gem Anscombe Modern Moral Philosophy: An Analytical Review

gem anscombe modern moral philosophy remains a pivotal phrase when exploring the resurgence of virtue ethics and the critique of contemporary moral theory in the 20th century. Elizabeth Anscombe, often referred to simply as G.E.M. Anscombe, profoundly influenced modern moral philosophy through her groundbreaking 1958 essay, "Modern Moral Philosophy." This work not only challenged the dominant ethical paradigms of her time but also paved the way for a renewed interest in Aristotelian ethics, fundamentally reshaping academic discussions surrounding morality, intention, and human action.

The Intellectual Context of Anscombe's Critique

Before diving into the nuances of Anscombe's contributions, it is crucial to understand the intellectual environment that prompted her intervention. Mid-20th-century moral philosophy was largely dominated by deontological and utilitarian frameworks. These theories, focusing on rule-based ethics and consequentialism respectively, often sidelined considerations of character, intention, and moral psychology. Anscombe's critique was directed squarely at this landscape, which she deemed inadequate for addressing the complexities of moral thought and practice.

Her essay famously argued that the concept of moral obligation, central to much of contemporary ethical theory, had lost its foundation due to the erosion of belief in a divine lawgiver or metaphysical grounding. This observation highlighted a crisis in moral philosophy: without a metaphysical basis, the language of moral duty becomes problematic and prone to confusion. Anscombe's intervention thus called for a reassessment of the foundations upon which modern moral theories rest.

Reinvigorating Virtue Ethics

One of the most significant outcomes of gem anscombe modern moral philosophy is the revitalization of virtue ethics. Anscombe argued that classical virtue ethics, particularly Aristotelian ethics, offered a more coherent and psychologically insightful approach to morality. Rather than focusing narrowly on rules or consequences, virtue ethics emphasizes the development of moral character and practical wisdom (phronesis) as the basis for ethical living.

This shift redirected philosophical attention to questions about what constitutes a good human life and how virtues such as courage, temperance, and justice contribute to human flourishing. Anscombe's approach underscored the importance of moral psychology—understanding the motivations, intentions, and dispositions that underlie ethical behavior—as opposed to merely cataloging permissible or impermissible actions.

Key Themes in Anscombe's Modern Moral Philosophy

The Concept of Intention

Central to Anscombe's analysis is her exploration of intention, which she elaborated further in her later work, "Intention" (1957). She distinguished intention from related concepts such as motive and desire, emphasizing its role in ethical evaluation. According to Anscombe, understanding what an agent intends is crucial for judging the moral quality of an action.

This focus on intention has had enduring influence across various ethical discussions, including debates on the doctrine of double effect and the moral status of actions with mixed outcomes. By highlighting intention's normative significance, Anscombe contributed to a more nuanced understanding of moral responsibility.

Critique of the Modern Moral Language

Anscombe's essay also scrutinizes the language used in modern moral philosophy, particularly the concept of "moral obligation." She argued that this concept, inherited from a theological framework, had become hollow without its original metaphysical context. The loss of this foundation created confusion and misapplication in moral reasoning.

This linguistic critique pushed philosophers to reconsider how moral terms function and whether alternative conceptual frameworks might better capture the reality of moral experience. In this respect, Anscombe's work anticipated later linguistic and analytic approaches to ethics that emphasize clarity and coherence in moral discourse.

Impact on Contemporary Moral Philosophy

The legacy of gem anscombe modern moral philosophy is evident in the continued prominence of virtue ethics within both academic philosophy and applied ethical discussions. Her work has inspired a broad range of philosophers, from Alasdair MacIntyre to Philippa Foot, who have further developed virtue ethics as a serious alternative to deontological and consequentialist models.

Moreover, her insights into intention and moral language continue to inform debates in medical ethics, legal theory, and political philosophy. For instance, the doctrine of double effect, which plays a significant role in ethical decision-making around end-of-life care and wartime conduct, owes much to Anscombe's elucidation of intention.

Comparative Perspectives: Anscombe and Her Contemporaries

When compared to contemporaneous moral philosophers such as J.L. Mackie or R.M. Hare, Anscombe's approach stands out for its historical rootedness and metaphysical seriousness. While Mackie's moral skepticism and Hare's prescriptivism focused on the analysis of moral language and universalizability, Anscombe called for a return to a richer, virtue-based ethical framework grounded in human nature and teleology.

This contrast highlights the diversity of philosophical responses to the moral challenges of the modern world, with Anscombe's work providing a unique synthesis of analytic rigor and classical ethical insight.

Practical Implications of Anscombe's Philosophy

Beyond theoretical contributions, gem anscombe modern moral philosophy has practical implications for understanding moral education, character formation, and ethical deliberation. By emphasizing virtues and intentions, Anscombe's framework encourages a holistic approach to morality that integrates emotion, reason, and social context.

In educational settings, this translates to fostering moral character rather than solely teaching rules or consequences. In professional ethics, such as medicine or law, it advocates for attentiveness to the agent's intentions and virtues in complex decision-making scenarios.

- **Pros:** Offers a comprehensive framework that accounts for moral psychology and character development.
- **Cons:** Critics argue that virtue ethics can be culturally relative and lacks clear guidance for specific moral dilemmas.

Challenges and Continuing Debates

Despite its resurgence, virtue ethics as revitalized by Anscombe faces ongoing challenges. Questions about relativism, the objectivity of virtues, and the applicability of Aristotelian teleology in a pluralistic world remain contentious. Additionally, integrating virtue ethics with contemporary concerns such as social justice and global ethics continues to be an area of active scholarship.

Nevertheless, Gem Anscombe's modern moral philosophy remains a vital reference point in these debates, offering a rich conceptual toolkit for addressing enduring ethical questions.

The enduring influence of G.E.M. Anscombe's critique and proposals illustrates the dynamic nature of moral philosophy. Her insistence on re-examining the foundations of ethical thought has encouraged generations of philosophers to explore morality not just as a set of rules but as a lived, character-driven endeavor. This ongoing conversation underscores the importance of her work in shaping modern ethical discourse and its practical applications.

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gem anscombe modern moral philosophy: *An Analysis of G.E.M. Anscombe's Modern Moral Philosophy* Jonny Blamey, Jon W. Thompson, 2017-07-12 Elizabeth Anscombe's 1958 essay "Modern Moral Philosophy" is a cutting intervention in modern philosophy that shows the full power of good evaluative and analytical critical thinking skills. Though only 16 pages long, Anscombe's paper set out to do nothing less than reform the entire field of modern moral philosophy – something that could only be done by carefully examining the existing arguments of the giants of the field. To do this, she deployed the central skills of evaluation and analysis. In critical thinking, analysis helps understand the sequence and features of arguments: it asks what reasons these arguments produce, what implicit reasons and assumptions they rely on, what conclusions they arrive at. Evaluation involves judging whether or not the arguments are strong enough to sustain their conclusions: it asks how acceptable, adequate, and relevant the reasons given are, and whether or not the conclusions drawn from them are really valid. In "Modern Moral Philosophy," Anscombe dispassionately turns these skills on figures that have dominated moral philosophy since the 18th-century, revealing the underlying assumptions of their work, their weaknesses and strengths, and showing that in many ways the supposed differences between their arguments are actually negligible. A brilliantly incisive piece, "Modern Moral Philosophy" radically affected its field, remaining required – and controversial – reading today.

gem anscombe modern moral philosophy: *Modern Moral Philosophy* Anthony O'Hear, 2004-11-18 Collection of original essays by leading researchers on current approaches to moral philosophy.

gem anscombe modern moral philosophy: *Anscombe's Moral Philosophy* Duncan Richter, 2010-11-19 G.E.M. Anscombe (1919-2001) was one of the most important, outspoken, and misunderstood philosophers of the twentieth century. More than anyone else she revived virtue ethics and the philosophy of action. She was also almost alone in publicly opposing Oxford University's decision to award an honorary degree to President Truman. She regarded his decision to authorize bombing Hiroshima and Nagasaki as murderous. Some liberals admire her for this stand, but conservatives also admire her for her opposition to abortion, contraception, and same-sex marriage. Clearly her values were not those of her times. This led her to reflect on the differences, producing such works as *Modern Moral Philosophy*, in which she rejected all modern theories of

ethics. In this paper she coins the term consequentialism to describe the dominant view, which she rejects, that what matters morally is the results of what one does. Put crudely, the ends can justify the means. If enough lives can be saved by targeting civilians, then civilians should be targeted. Against this, Anscombe insisted that certain actions are forbidden, which prompted her interest in the nature of action and its relation to a person's character. Whether one agrees with her or not, these are all issues that continue to be relevant and on which Anscombe's views are always strong and intelligently defended. Her presentation of these views, unfortunately, is often dense, and they are often badly misunderstood even by some very able minds. Anscombe's *Moral Philosophy* clarifies what Anscombe thought about ethics, showing how her different ideas connect and how she supported them. It also evaluates her reasoning, showing that it is stronger in some parts than in others. The five main chapters of the book deal in turn with her work on military ethics (including the so-called doctrine of double effect), her rejection of consequentialism, her attack on the modern, atheist notion of moral obligation, her analysis of intention and its relevance for ethics, an

gem anscombe modern moral philosophy: Ethics after Anscombe Duncan Richter, 2000
The outstanding features of this book are that it directly confronts the challenge posed by G.E.M. Anscombe in *Modern Moral Philosophy* of how moral philosophy can be done, it makes a significant contribution to the debate on virtue theory and anti-theory in ethics, and it shows the relevance of such theoretical discussion by grounding it in, and applying it to, contemporary moral issues such as abortion, suicide, and the moral status of animals. No other book currently available covers this ground. The book is aimed primarily at upper-level undergraduates, graduate students and faculty in philosophy, but it should be accessible to anyone with an interest in practical ethics or the philosophy of Wittgenstein.

gem anscombe modern moral philosophy: Moral Philosophy Anthony O'Hear, 2022-06-09
What is moral philosophy? That is the question with which this important volume grapples. Its starting point is the famous critique made in 1958 by Elizabeth Anscombe, who argued that moral philosophy begins from a mistake: that it is fundamentally wrong about the sort of concept that the word 'moral' represents. Anscombe rejected moral philosophy as it was then (and mostly now still is) practised. She offered instead a blueprint for the task moral philosophers must embrace if they are to speak intelligibly to society about good and bad, right and wrong, duty and obligation. The chapters in this book are inspired by Anscombe's classic text. One of the most powerful voices here, among many authoritative voices, is that of Philippa Foot – Anscombe's lifelong friend – who asserts that 'any account of practical reason evacuated of an understanding of what human beings need to flourish is inadequate and must be rejected.'

gem anscombe modern moral philosophy: The Moral Philosophy of Elizabeth Anscombe Luke Gormally, David Albert Jones, Roger Teichmann, 2016-03-17 Elizabeth Anscombe's 1958 essay 'Modern Moral Philosophy' contributed to the transformation of the subject from the late 1960s, reversing the trend to assume that there is no intrinsic connection between facts, values, and reasons for action; and directing attention towards the category of virtues. Her later ethical writings were focused on particular ideas and issues such as those of conscience, double-effect, murder, and sexual ethics. In this collection of new essays deriving from a conference held in Oxford these and other aspects of her moral philosophy are examined. Anyone interested in Anscombe's work all want to read this volume.

gem anscombe modern moral philosophy: Human Life, Action and Ethics G.E.M. Anscombe, 2011-11-18 A collection of essays by the celebrated philosopher Elizabeth Anscombe. This collection includes papers on human nature and practical philosophy, together with the classic 'Modern Moral Philosophy'

gem anscombe modern moral philosophy: Understanding Philosophy for AS Level Christopher Hamilton, 2003 This text offers a step-by-step approach through all the requirements of the AQA AS level specification. Using examples taken from history, literature and everyday life, the author links philosophical theories and debates with issues that are both relevant and familiar to students.

gem anscombe modern moral philosophy: The Philosophy of Elizabeth Anscombe Roger Teichmann, 2011-04-07 One of the most important philosophers of recent times, Elizabeth Anscombe wrote books and articles on a wide range of topics, including the ground-breaking monograph *Intention*. Her work is original, challenging, often difficult, always insightful; but it has frequently been misunderstood, and its overall significance is still not fully appreciated. This book is the first major study of Anscombe's philosophical oeuvre. In it, Roger Teichmann presents Anscombe's main ideas, bringing out their interconnections, elaborating and discussing their implications, pointing out objections and difficulties, and aiming to give a unified overview of her philosophy. Many of Anscombe's arguments are relevant to contemporary debates, as Teichmann shows, and on a number of topics what Anscombe has to say constitutes a powerful alternative to dominant or popular views. Among the writings discussed are *Intention*, 'Practical Inference', 'Modern Moral Philosophy', 'Rules, Rights and Promises', 'On Brute Facts', 'The First Person', 'The Intentionality of Sensation', 'Causality and Determination', *An Introduction to Wittgenstein's Tractatus*, 'The Question of Linguistic Idealism', and a number of other pieces, including some that are little known or hard to obtain. A complete bibliography of Anscombe's writings is also included. Ranging from the philosophy of action, through ethics, to philosophy of mind, metaphysics, and the philosophy of logic and language, this book is a study of one of the most significant bodies of work in modern philosophy, spanning more than fifty years, and as pertinent today as ever.

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new collection includes articles published subsequent to those volumes and not hitherto gathered, previously unpublished papers on human nature and practical philosophy, together with the classic essay 'Modern Moral Philosophy?' and a few otherwise difficult to obtain early pieces such as her Listener article 'Does Oxford Moral Philosophy Corrupt the Youth?'. The appearance of this volume is a major publishing event.

gem anscombe modern moral philosophy: Human Lives Jacqueline A. Laing, David S. Oderberg, 1997-01-12 *Human Lives: Critical Essays on Consequentialist Bioethics* is a collection of original papers by philosophers from Britain, the USA and Australia. The aim of the book is to redress the imbalance in moral philosophy created by the dominance of consequentialism, the view that the criterion of morality is the maximization of good effects over bad, without regard for basic right or wrong. This approach has become the orthodoxy over the last few decades, particularly in the field of bioethics, where moral theory is applied to matters of life and death. The essays in *Human Lives* critically examine the assumptions and arguments of consequentialism, reviving in the process important concepts such as rights, justice, innocence, natural integrity, flourishing, the virtues, and the fundamental value of human life.

gem anscombe modern moral philosophy: Ecclesial Mediation in Karl Barth John Yocum, 2017-05-15 Karl Barth is widely considered the greatest theologian of the Twentieth Century, exerting a major influence in almost every area of theological thought in both Reformation and Roman Catholic traditions. *Ecclesial Mediation in Karl Barth* deals with one of the most important and controversial themes in Barth's theology, the relation between divine and human action. John Yocum argues that Barth's late rejection of the concept of sacrament, explicated in the final volume of his *Church Dogmatics*, is not only at odds with his account of the nature and importance of sacraments presented earlier in the *Church Dogmatics* but subverts important elements of his theology as a whole especially the mediation of divine grace in preaching and the Bible. Bringing Barth into fruitful dialogue with Yves Congar, Yocum contends that the notion of sacrament is crucial to an account of the divine-human relation that respects the character of both agents.

gem anscombe modern moral philosophy: Anscombe's Intention John Schwenkler, 2019 Written against the background of her controversial opposition to the University of Oxford's awarding of an honorary degree to Harry S. Truman, Elizabeth Anscombe's *Intention* laid the groundwork she thought necessary for a proper ethical evaluation of actions like the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The devoutly Catholic Anscombe thought that these actions made Truman a murderer, and thus unworthy of the university's honor-but that this verdict depended on an understanding of intentional action that had been widely rejected in contemporary moral philosophy. *Intention* was her attempt to work out that understanding and argue for its superiority over a conception of intention as an inner mental state. Though recognized universally as one of the definitive works in analytic philosophy of action, Anscombe's book is often dismissed as unsystematic or obscure, and usually read through the lens of philosophical concerns very far from her own. Schwenkler's *Guide* offers a careful and critical presentation of Anscombe's main lines of argument at a level appropriate to advanced undergraduates but also capable of benefiting specialists in action theory, moral philosophy, and the history of analytic philosophy. Further, it situates *Intention* in a context that emphasizes Anscombe's debts to Aristotle, Aquinas, and Wittgenstein, and her engagement with the work of contemporaries like Gilbert Ryle and R.M. Hare, inviting new avenues of engagement with the ideas of historically important philosophers.

gem anscombe modern moral philosophy: Philosophical Psychology Craig Steven Titus, 2009 Elizabeth Anscombe, considered by some to be the greatest English philosopher of the 20th century, called for a renewed 'philosophy of psychology'. In line with her hopes, *Philosophical Psychology* outlines a vision that seeks to do justice to the complexity of the human person.

gem anscombe modern moral philosophy: Acting on Principle Onora O'Neill, 2013-12-05 'Two things', wrote Kant, 'fill the mind with ever new and increasing admiration and awe: the starry heavens above and the moral law within'. Many would argue that since Kant's day, the study of the starry heavens has advanced while ethics has stagnated, and in particular that Kant's ethics offers

an empty formalism that tells us nothing about how we should live. In *Acting on Principle* Onora O'Neill shows that Kantian ethics has practical as well as philosophical importance. First published in 1975, the book is regarded as a classic account and defence of the Kantian ethical position. It addresses Kant's account of reasoning about action, in particular his controversial claim that the Categorical Imperative guides action and is basic to ethics and justice. This second edition offers a substantial new introduction and updated bibliography, and will be valuable for a wide readership in Kant studies and those studying ethics.

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gem anscombe modern moral philosophy: Educating the Virtues David Carr, 2012 Tracing the views on moral life of such past philosophers as Plato, Aristotle and Kant, as well as of such theorists as Durkheim, Freud, Piaget and Kohlberg, the author sets forth a full discussion of the nature and educational implications of the idea of moral virtue.

gem anscombe modern moral philosophy: Philosophical and Political Consequences of the Critique of Political Economy Patrick Murray, Jeanne Schuler, 2023-08-29 This book extends the approach that Murray and Schuler develop in their companion volume, *False Moves in Philosophy and Social Theory: Losing Public Purpose*. The chapters form a connected inquiry into consequences of capital, a far-reaching social form, through a critique of political economy and the mindset it shares with much modern philosophy and social theory. The authors call this bifurcating mentality factoring philosophy. Factoring philosophy mistakes the distinguishable for the separable. It splits the subjective and objective, form and content, and it takes the object of social theory to be an impossible economy-in-general, stripped of constitutive social forms. The critique of factoring philosophy structures the collection, which makes a wide-ranging contribution to the research field of the critique of political economy as critical social theory. Ultimately, this book solidifies Murray and Schuler's impact on the study of political economy, political philosophy, modern philosophy, Hegel, Marx, and critical theory.

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