

1  **Moral Naturalism**  
Feminist Ethics According to Margaret Urban Walker

2  **Overview**  
Moral Idealism vs Moral Naturalism

- Moral Idealism
  - What it is
  - Problems
- Key Terms
  - Descriptive Ethics
  - Normative Ethics
- Moral Naturalism
  - What it is
  - How to practice it
  - Transparency Testing

3  **Moral Idealism**  
*Descriptive Claim*

Morality is an objective, unchanging truth.

*Source of Normative Claims*

4  **Key Terms**

Descriptive Ethics  
What We Think is Right and Wrong

What We Should Think is Right and Wrong  
Normative Ethics

5  **Moral Idealism**  
*Descriptive Claim*

Morality is an objective, unchanging truth.

*Source of Normative Claims*

6  **Moral Idealism**

Plato/Socrates  
Aquinas  
Kant  
Mill

7  **Moral Idealism**

8 

Reflect

9  **Moral Naturalism**  
*Descriptive Claim:*

“Morality is a naturally occurring structure of all human social groups.”  
*Walker, pp 108*

10  **Moral Naturalism**

*Descriptive Claim:*

Morality "is a disposition of powers through an arrangement of responsibilities."  
Walker, pp 106

11 

Morality "is a disposition of powers through an arrangement of responsibilities."  
Walker, pp 106

Give an example of a responsibility

12 

Morality "is a disposition of powers through an arrangement of responsibilities."  
Walker, pp 106

Give an example of an institution that arranges responsibilities

13 

**Moral Naturalism**

"Moral concepts and judgments are an integral part, *but only one part*, of practices that attempt to organize feelings, behavior, and judgment in ways that keep people's expectations in rough equilibrium."

Walker, pp 107

14 

**Moral Naturalism**

Form of *Normative Claims*.

Morality makes claims about the right way to live.

15 

**Moral Naturalism**

Practices of responsibility "implement and enforce understandings of

- who may do what to whom,
- who must do what for whom,
- and to whom various ones of us have to account."

Walker, pp 109

16 

Reflect

17 

**Moral Naturalism**  
**Normativity**

"the durability of our understandings and the trust they support under the right kinds of tests."

Walker, pp 109

18 

What Kind of Tests?

19 

Trust

- Certain basic understandings are common
- These common understandings are the main ones that shape our way of life
- That this way of life is worthy of allegiance, effort, restraint, or sacrifice.

Walker, pp 109

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20  Trust

Just ways some people can make others behave  
*Walker, pp 109*

21  Trust

Give an example of "Just ways some people can make others behave."

22  Trust

- Certain basic understandings are common
- These common understandings are the main ones that shape our way of life
- That this way of life is worthy of allegiance, effort, restraint, or sacrifice.

*Walker, pp 109*

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23  **Activity**

" . . . It is not safe to assume that people typically know much of what they are really doing, and it is certainly doubtful that they know what and all that they are collectively doing in reproducing their form of life."

*Walker, Moral Understandings, pp 250*

24  **Activity**

Think about your own life  
Think about the life you want to have

Where are you going?

25  **Activity**

Think about your own life  
Think about the life you want to have

Why do you want to be there?

26  **Activity**

Get into your Groups

1. Pass your paper to the person to your left.
2. Read the paper.
3. List *two or more* things that you think your fellow group member values about the way of life they want.
4. Compare your lists. Are they different? Similar?
5. As a group, make a list of things that make a good way of life.

27  **Activity**

Responsibility

1. who may do what to whom,
2. who must do what for whom,
3. and to whom various ones of us have to account.

*Walker, pp 109*

28  **Activity**

What common understandings about life does this class have?

What understandings are not common?

29  **Transparency Testing**  
**Normativity**

Are the understandings we think are shared *actually* shared?

30  Are the understandings we think we have in common *actually* in common?

Reflect