

Moral Naturalism

Feminist Ethics According to Margaret Urban Walker

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 - Descriptive Ethics
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 - Moral Naturalism
 - What it is
 - How to practice it
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Moral Idealism

Descriptive Claim

Morality is an objective, unchanging truth.

Source of Normative Claims

Key Terms

Descriptive Ethics

What We Think is Right and Wrong

What We **Should** Think is Right and Wrong

Normative Ethics

Moral Idealism

Descriptive Claim

Morality is an objective, unchanging truth.

Source of Normative Claims

Moral Idealism

Plato/Socrates
Aquinas
Kant

Mill

Moral Idealism



Reflect

Moral **Naturalism**

Descriptive Claim:

“Morality is a naturally occurring structure of all human social groups.”

Walker, pp 108

Moral Naturalism

Descriptive Claim:

Morality “is a disposition of powers through an arrangement of responsibilities.”

Walker, pp 106

Morality “is a disposition of powers through an arrangement of responsibilities.”

Walker, pp 106

Give an example of a responsibility

Morality “is a **disposition of powers** through an arrangement of responsibilities.”

Walker, pp 106

Give an example of an institution that arranges responsibilities

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

Moral Naturalism

Form of *Normative Claims*:

Morality makes claims about the right way to live.

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

Reflect

Moral Naturalism

Normativity

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

Walker, pp 109

What Kind of Tests?

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

Trust

Just ways some people can
make others behave

Walker, pp 109

Trust

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

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

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

Activity

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

Where are you going?

Activity

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

Why do you want to be
there?

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.**

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

Activity

What **common understandings** about life
does this class have?

What understandings are **not** common?

Transparency Testing

Normativity

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

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

Reflect