

Contents

Acknowledgements	vii
Introduction: Ethics in the Sheep's Shop	1
Philosophical Reflection on Obligation	2
Elements of a General Conception of Obligation	8
1. Four Early Modern Accounts of Obligation	16
Voluntarism	17
Rationalism	23
Egoism	29
Sentimentalism	34
2. The Copernican Revolution in Ethics	40
Reflection as the Source of the Problem of Normativity	40
Kant and the Copernican Revolution in Ethics	42
The Argument of the Collins Lectures	47
The Argument of the <i>Groundwork</i>	50
The Fact of Reason	60
3. Perceptual and Expressive Sense	64
Normativity in Perceptual Experience	65
Two Objections to the Perception-Based Account	75
Saussurian Linguistics	77
Merleau-Ponty's Reinterpretation of Saussure	81
The Dynamic of Communication	84
Obligation and the Claim of the Other	88
4. Noise	93
Noise as Originary	93
Noise and Moral Sense	100

Exposure to Noise as the Fact of Sense	109
Harlequin Emperor of the Moon	114
The Devil or the Good Lord?	117
5. Abandonment and the Moral Law	125
Sense as Shared	129
Abandonment and Obligation	138
Dignity	144
6. Indifference	153
Obligation as Overriding	153
The Givenness of Facts	161
Subjunctive Indeterminacy	166
The Law of Expansion	173
7. Conclusion	179
Is This Still Obligation?	179
A Deflationary Account	185
Notes	191
Bibliography	209
Index	219