

Contents

Preface (by Noël O’Sullivan)	ix
Chapter 1: Introduction	1

PART 1

Chapter 2: Relativism	
Introduction.	13
How to Justify Relativism	27
David Wong’s Conception of Moral Relativity	33
Harman and Relativism – Relativity as	
Reasonably Required	40
Rorty’s Relativism	47
Conclusion	50

Chapter 3: Universalism	
Introduction.	53
Thomas Nagel’s Universalism	54
Habermas’ Transcendental-Pragmatic Argument	74
The Universalism of Stuart Hampshire	90
Contingent Universalism	97
Conclusion.	112

Chapter 4: Reflective Equilibrium and Relativism	
Introduction	115
Reflective Equilibrium as a	
Method of Moral Justification.	117
‘Considered’ Judgements	120
The Status of Considered Moral Judgements	131
The Nature of Coherence Relativism	137

How We Choose Between Multiple Justified Moralities	153
Conclusion – Coherence Relativism?	158
Chapter 5: Coherence Relativism and Its Implications	
Introduction	161
Universality and Moral Criticism	162
Abhorrent Moralities, Relativism and Toleration	170
Conclusion.	191
PART 2	
Chapter 6: Liberal Neutrality	
Introduction	195
Charles Larmore’s Neutralist Proposal	198
Rawls’ Priority of Right	206
Conclusion.	217
Chapter 7: Reasonable Disagreement and Relativism	
Introduction	219
Reasonable Disagreement and Liberalism	221
Liberalism, Scepticism and Relativism	233
Relativism and Justificatory Liberalism	241
Justificatory Liberalism and the Possibility of Legitimacy	247
Conclusion.	253
Chapter 8: Conclusion	
The Culture of Relativism	260
Bibliography.	265
Index	272