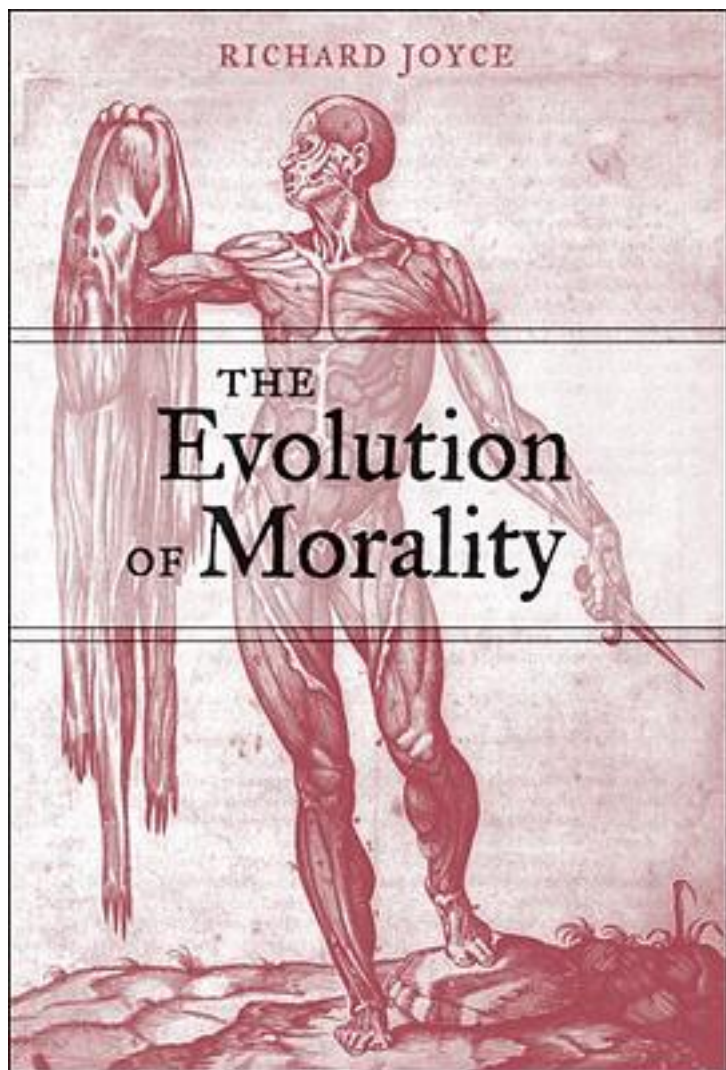


The Evolution of Morality



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著者:Richard Joyce

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Moral thinking pervades our practical lives, but where did this way of thinking come from, and what purpose does it serve? Is it to be explained by environmental pressures on our ancestors a million years ago, or is it a cultural invention of more recent origin? In *The Evolution of Morality*, Richard Joyce takes up these controversial questions, finding that the evidence supports an innate basis to human morality. As a moral philosopher, Joyce is interested in whether any implications follow from this hypothesis. Might the fact that the human brain has been biologically prepared by natural selection to engage in moral judgment serve in some sense to vindicate this way of thinking--staving off the threat of moral skepticism, or even undergirding some version of moral realism? Or if morality has an adaptive explanation in genetic terms--if it is, as Joyce writes, "just something that helped our ancestors make more babies"--might such an explanation actually undermine morality's central role in our lives? He carefully examines both the evolutionary "vindication of morality" and the evolutionary "debunking of morality," considering the skeptical view more seriously than have others who have treated the subject. Interdisciplinary and combining the latest results from the empirical sciences with philosophical discussion, *The Evolution of Morality* is one of the few books in this area written from the perspective of moral philosophy. Concise and without technical jargon, the arguments are rigorous but accessible to readers from different academic backgrounds. Joyce discusses complex issues in plain language while advocating subtle and sometimes radical views. *The Evolution of Morality* lays the philosophical foundations for further research into the biological understanding of human morality.

作者介绍:

理查德·乔伊斯 (1966--), 1998年获得普林斯顿大学博士学位。先后在谢菲尔德大学、惠灵顿维多利亚大学任教和研究。作为一个道德哲学家, 乔伊斯在元伦理学领域的研究成果蜚声全球, 他是反现实主义的道德怀疑论者, 坚定地捍卫着道德虚构主义和道德怀疑主义。主要作品包括《道德的神话》《道德的演化》等。

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书评

什么是道德？我们都觉得自己知道道德，但是要用语言说出来，恐怕没几个人能说清。看起来，抽象概念都有这个特点，难以定义的特性很多人都注意到了，就像“宗教”之于韦伯，就像“文学”之于J. Heller，sexuality之于福科，或者是普里查德提到的部落人的mana或chrisma。当然，还...

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