



Ethics in the Public Service: The Moral Mind at Work (Text Teach / Policies)

By Charles Garofalo, Dean Geuras

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Serving the public interest with integrity requires a moral perspective that can rise above the day-to-day pressures of the job. This book integrates Western philosophy's most significant ethical theories and merges them with public administration theory to provide public administrators with an explicit moral foundation for ethical decision making.

Ethics in the Public Service reviews moral thought through the ages, from Plato to Rorty, and makes the philosophies of the more difficult thinkers accessible to both students and practitioners. Unifying seemingly disparate ethical positions, including those of Aristotle, Kant, and Mill, the authors defend the idea of objective moral truth and critique subjectivist views, refuting postmodernism and ethical relativism. Using their integrated objective approach, they tackle such dichotomies in public administration theory as bureaucracy vs. democracy, and they also examine a case study in an administrative setting.

Offering a better understanding of moral dilemmas rather than a formula, this book presents scholars and practitioners with a framework that is both objective and flexible, theoretical and practical. This original synthesis provides a comprehensive basis for administrative thought and action.

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Review

"This well-written and lucid book develops an integrated moral philosophy for public administration . . . their approach constitutes a unified moral perspective . . . incorporating their concept of moral agency with the view that US administrative agencies generally seek to accomplish legitimately defined concepts of the public interest . . . Garofalo and Geuras . . . brilliantly sketch the normative basis for doing so. Required reading for serious students of public administration." *Choice*

Review

"A richly historical and carefully written treatment of ethics in public administration. It is an important contribution to our understanding of ethical and moral issues." *George Frederickson, University of Kansas*

"A carefully developed program for what might be called interactive ethics, a way of enriching moral action by bringing philosophical perspective and concrete public problems into perpetual communication." *Joe E. Barnhart, University of North Texas*

About the Author

Charles Garofalo is an associate professor of political science and **Dean Geuras** is a professor of philosophy, both at Southwest Texas State University.

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