



Joseph Wiinikka-Lydon

Moral Injury and the Promise of Virtue

- Argues that the languages and concepts developed by ethicists can be a resource for speaking about moral injury in a way that can bring out the moral stakes involved for survivors of violence
- Develops Iris Murdoch's understanding of virtue so that it can be applied to real life cases
- Engages sociologists, psychologists, and anthropologists researching issues of violence

This book turns to virtue language as an important resource for understanding moral injury, a form of subjectivity where one feels they can no longer strive to be good as a result of wartime experience. Drawing specifically on Iris Murdoch's moral philosophy, and examining the experiences of civilians during the Bosnian War (1992-5), Joseph Wiinikka-Lydon argues that current research into war and current understandings of subjectivity need new ways to articulate the moral dimension of being a subject if we are to understand how violence affects one's moral being and development. He develops an understanding of the human person as a tensile moral subject, one that forefronts the moral challenges and vulnerability inherent in lives affected by war. With these resources, Wiinikka-Lydon argues for a moral vocabulary and images of the human as a moral being that can better articulate the experience of violence and moral injury.

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