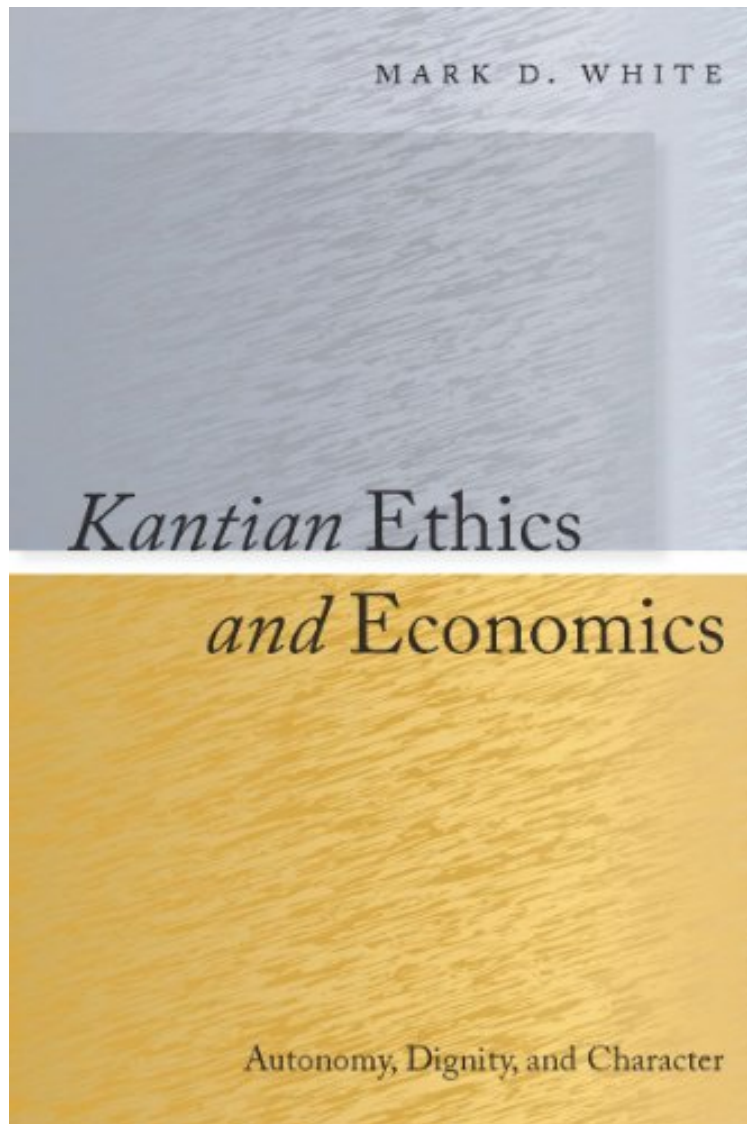


[FREE] Kantian Ethics and Economics: Autonomy, Dignity, and Character

Kantian Ethics and Economics: Autonomy, Dignity, and Character

Mark White

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Mark White : Kantian Ethics and Economics: Autonomy, Dignity, and Character before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kantian Ethics and Economics: Autonomy, Dignity, and Character:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. can economics makes sense of "autonomy"?By art5The book is an impressively in-depth account of Kant's ethics and how it contrasts with--or can augment--the view of human nature proposed in economics. There are few texts that are as comprehensive in the examination of the literature (on moral theory and economics), and there is no author that understands both Kant's writings on ethics (including the

scholarship on Kant) and the economic view of human nature as well as White. He also brings Kant's moral theory to bear on the economics of law and behavioral economics. In Chapter 5, he nicely covers an increasingly poignant issue today, the use of behavioral economics in designing social policy and what this means for individual autonomy. I highly recommend the book for students of economics and philosophy or law, or those interested in the motivating philosophy of economic policies (especially of the libertarian ilk). It identifies key points of conflict in the ways of thinking that may go undetected in a training focused in one discipline.

This book introduces the moral philosophy of Immanuel Kant—in particular, the concepts of autonomy, dignity, and character—to economic theory, explaining the importance of integrating these two streams of intellectual thought. Mainstream economics is rooted in classical utilitarianism, recommending that decision makers choose the options that are expected to generate the largest net benefits. For individuals, the standard economic model fails to incorporate the role of principles in decision-making, and also denies the possibility of true choice, which can be independent of preferences and principles altogether. For policymakers, standard decision-making frameworks recommend tradeoffs that are beneficial in terms of material goods or wealth, but may be morally questionable from a more person-centered perspective. Integrating Kantian ethics affects economics in three important ways. This integration allows for a more complete understanding of human choice, incorporating not just preferences and constraints, but also principles and strength of will or character. It demonstrates the broader impact of welfare economics, which generates policies that affect not only persons' well-being, but also their dignity and autonomy. Finally, it reconciles the traditional, individualist stance in economic models of choice with the social responsibility emphasized by many systems of philosophical ethics and heterodox schools of economics.

"This remarkable book provides a new ethical perspective for economics based on Kantian ethics of autonomy and dignity. ... The author has upheld the interdisciplinary appeal of the topic, demonstrating an outstanding knowledge of the vast literature on ethics (both Kantian and not) and economics." - Journal of the History of Philosophy
"Mark D. White's book on Kantian Ethics and Economics is an outstanding example of mastery in both fields, representing a systematic application of Kantian ethics to contemporary economics." - of Social Economy
About the Author
Mark D. White is Professor in the Department of Political Science, Economics, and Philosophy at the College of Staten Island and The Graduate Center, CUNY. He has edited several books, the most recent of which are *Accepting the Invisible Hand* and *The Thief of Time*.