

## Acknowledgments

If memory serves, this book, and the dissertation that it grew out of, was sparked by an eye-opening seminar on biological and cultural explanations of human behavior I attended while in graduate school, a great conference on moral psychology in the summer of 2004 at Dartmouth College, and a number of conversations with my advisor, Steve Stich, at least one of which occurred at a Chinatown restaurant over a meal made up of dishes like blood tofu and duck tongue soup, which he was clearly enjoying, and which I was unsuccessfully trying to not be disgusted by. From there, the project unfolded slowly and in stages, and I have benefited along the way from the help and encouragement of many people.

My biggest debt is to Steve, whose professional guidance and support have been invaluable in navigating the early stages of a career in academia, whose vision of what philosophy is and can be has helped shape my own, and who, by virtue of this, has perhaps unknowingly provided reassurance that a life in academic philosophy can be both invigorating and worthwhile. Many thanks also to the members of the Moral Psychology Research Group; the exposure to so many perspectives, the stream of opportunities, and the intellectual companionship and camaraderie have been, and I am sure will continue to be, fantastic. I am also thankful to everyone who has given me many useful sorts of feedback on this project, either in conversation or by commenting on earlier written drafts. Those whom I can remember include Anne Barnhill, Damon Centola, Christine Clavien, John Doris, Luc Faucher, Geoff Georgi, Alvin Goldman, Matt Guschwan, Colin Jager, Edouard Machery, Ron Mallon, Brian McLaughlin, Shaun Nichols, Jennifer Robinson, Ted Sider, and Eric Wesselman, as well as Tom Stone, Philip Laughlin, and two anonymous reviewers at the MIT Press. Suggestions and criticisms on talks based on this material have also been extremely helpful, and my gratitude goes out to the members of the philosophy departments at Illinois Wesleyan University, Rice University, the University of Houston,

and the University of Utah, as well as the participants at the 2006 Conference for the International Society for Research on Emotions in Atlanta; the 2007 Cognition Conference on Connected Minds and the 2008 Summer Institute on Societies and Minds, both at the University of Quebec at Montreal; the Purdue Social Psychology Brownbag Speaker Series; the 2008 workshops on the evolution of signaling and emotion and commitment at Australian National University; and the 2009 Rocky Mountain Ethics Conferences at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Finally, I am indebted to Purdue University, especially to my colleagues in the philosophy department, for providing a diverse and hospitable intellectual environment.

Finally, I need to thank Melissa Will. It occurs to me that I have not always been my usual sunny and pleasant self when I was really immersed in this project, and so, over the years, she has probably suffered more for my art than I have myself.