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1523 Greene St, LeConte 102

ETHICS: HOW HARD CAN IT BE?

Abstract: The philosopher Bernard Williams once observed, “There are, notoriously no ethical experts...anyone who is tempted to take up the idea of there being a theoretical science of ethics should be discouraged by reflecting on what would be involved in taking seriously the idea that there were experts in it.” Is Williams right that there is no such thing as an ethical expert?

If he is right, what does this imply about whether ethical questions can have objective answers? What does it imply about how hard they can be? If he is wrong, then who are the experts?



Philosophy

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