

**MA Ethics Seminar 2000**  
**Readings on moral realism and moral motivation**

For a general introduction to ethical realism, see

Michael Smith, "Moral realism", in H. LaFollette, ed., The Blackwell Guide to Ethical Theory (Oxford: Blackwell 2000)

There is a helpful discussion of the many varieties of moral realism in

Geoffrey Sayre-McCord, "The many moral realisms", in G. Sayre-McCord, ed., Essays in Moral Realism (Ithaca NY: Cornell UP 1988)

along with much else that is useful. The current debate over moral realism and moral motivation has been strongly influenced by

Michael Smith, The Moral Problem (Oxford: Blackwell 1994).

One sort of moral realism--so-called 'Cornell realism'--is defended at length in

David O. Brink, Moral Realism and the Foundations of Ethics (Cambridge: CUP 1989)

For a very different sort of moral realism, see

Jonathan Dancy, Moral Reasons (Oxford: Blackwell 1993)

Dancy develops ideas on moral realism outlined by John McDowell in an influential series of papers. See especially

John McDowell, "Values and secondary qualities", reprinted in J. Rachels, ed., Ethical Theory (Oxford: OUP 1998)

and the discussion of McDowell's position in

Jonathan Dancy, "Two conceptions of moral realism", also in Rachels ed.

For a recent, interesting and helpful collection of papers, see

Brad Hooker, ed., Truth in Ethics (Oxford: Blackwell 1996)

For discussions of the topic of truth and its bearing on ethical realism, see

Paul Horwich, Truth (Oxford: Blackwell 1990)

Crispin Wright, Truth and Objectivity (Cambridge MA: Harvard UP 1992)

The latter is difficult, but well worth the effort.