

The Secular Outlook

UNCORRECTED PROOF

M

Blackwell Public Philosophy

Edited by Michael Boylan, Marymount University

In a world of 24-hour news cycles and increasingly specialized knowledge, the Blackwell Public Philosophy series takes seriously the idea that there is a need and demand for engaging and thoughtful discussion of topics of broad public importance. Philosophy itself is historically grounded in the public square, bringing people together to try to understand the various issues that shape their lives and give them meaning. This “love of wisdom” – the essence of philosophy – lies at the heart of the series. Written in an accessible, jargon-free manner by internationally renowned authors, each book is an invitation to the world beyond newsflashes and soundbites and into public wisdom.

1. *Permission to Steal: Revealing the Roots of Corporate Scandal* by Lisa H. Newton
2. *Doubting Darwin? Creationist Designs on Evolution* by Sahotra Sarkar
3. *The Extinction of Desire: A Tale of Enlightenment* by Michael Boylan
4. *Torture and the Ticking Bomb* by Bob Brecher
5. *In Defense of Dolphins: The New Moral Frontier* by Thomas I. White
6. *Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism: Ethics and Liberal Democracy* by Seumas Miller
7. *Who Owns You? The Corporate Gold Rush to Patent Your Genes* by David Koepsell
8. *Animalkind: What We Owe to Animals* by Jean Kazez
9. *In the Name of God: The Evolutionary Origins of Religious Ethics and Violence* by John Teehan
10. *The Secular Outlook: In Defense of Moral and Political Secularism* by Paul Cliteur

Forthcoming:

Evil On-Line: Explorations of Evil and Wickedness on the Web by Dean Cocking and Jeroen van den Hoven

For further information about individual titles in the series, supplementary material, and regular updates, visit www.blackwellpublishing.com/publicphilosophy

The Secular Outlook

In Defense of Moral and Political Secularism

Paul Cliteur

UNCORRECTED PROOF

 **WILEY-BLACKWELL**

A John Wiley & Sons, Ltd., Publication

M

This edition first published 2010
© 2010 Paul Cliteur

Blackwell Publishing was acquired by John Wiley & Sons in February 2007. Blackwell's publishing program has been merged with Wiley's global Scientific, Technical, and Medical business to form Wiley-Blackwell.

Registered Office

John Wiley & Sons Ltd, The Atrium, Southern Gate, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 8SQ, United Kingdom

Editorial Offices

350 Main Street, Malden, MA 02148-5020, USA
9600 Garsington Road, Oxford, OX4 2DQ, UK
The Atrium, Southern Gate, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 8SQ, UK

For details of our global editorial offices, for customer services, and for information about how to apply for permission to reuse the copyright material in this book please see our website at www.wiley.com/wiley-blackwell.

The right of Paul Cliteur to be identified as the author of this work has been asserted in accordance with the UK Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, except as permitted by the UK Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, without the prior permission of the publisher.

Wiley also publishes its books in a variety of electronic formats. Some content that appears in print may not be available in electronic books.

Designations used by companies to distinguish their products are often claimed as trademarks. All brand names and product names used in this book are trade names, service marks, trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners. The publisher is not associated with any product or vendor mentioned in this book. This publication is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information in regard to the subject matter covered. It is sold on the understanding that the publisher is not engaged in rendering professional services. If professional advice or other expert assistance is required, the services of a competent professional should be sought.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

••

Hardback ISBN: 9781444335200

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Set in 10 on 12 pt Sabon by Toppan Best-set Premedia Limited
Printed in ••

01 2010