

Phil 306

**A few bibliographical suggestions for final paper:**

E. Sober and D. Wilson, Unto Others: The Evolution and Psychology of Unselfish Behavior (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1998)

This book relates to several of our units. There is a philosophically sophisticated discussion of psychological egoism that is very helpful. There is a discussion of the kinds of social psychology experiments about empathy and altruism that Nichols discusses. The book also has an extremely sophisticated discussion of issues in evolution and altruism. It is the best discussion of this issue around, and I once considered assigning it in the course. But it is very complex, and I found it hard to understand.

The book from which the Nichols selection is taken (Sentimental Rules) can lead to two different topics. One would involve reading more of that book to look at Nichols's distinctive take on "sentimental morality," that is, the emotional basis of moral judgment, and the more general issue of the relation between reason and morality, although that last issue opens you up to millions of other philosophical works (which you don't need to deal with, but if you take this topic, I might suggest one!).

The other would be to go in a somewhat more empirical direction, looking at **children's development of empathy and morality**. The bible of this field from within psychology is Martin Hoffman's Empathy and Moral Development, which I have used in the past in this course. You could work on Nichols and Hoffman, and draw some interesting philosophical issues about the nature of empathy and its relation to morality from those two works.

**Ethical Egoism/Egoism and Morality:**

David Gauthier (ed.), Morality and Rational Self-Interest (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1970). Collection of classic philosophic articles on this topic.

**Altruism/Self-and-other:**

Max Scheler, The Nature of Sympathy has a very good discussion of the kinds of issues that came up in Anna Freud and (to somewhat lesser extent) E.V. Spelman. Scheler was a German philosopher from early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century who was very steeped in psychology. A really fascinating book.

If you are interested in pursuing the psychoanalytic dimension of this, the book by Anna Freud from which our chapter was taken might be useful: Ego and the Mechanisms of Defense. But I am not really familiar with this field, and so there may be many other things out of my knowledge.

Philip Rieff's Freud: The Mind of the Moralizer (1959) is an in-depth discussion of various moral dimensions of Freud's work.

### **Altruistic rescue of Jews during Holocaust:**

Phillip Hallie, Lest Innocent Blood Be Shed (New York: Harper and Row, 1979). An account of the village of Le Chambon, focusing on the village's leadership. (The film we see about the village focuses as much on the regular townspeople.) Very inspiring and fascinating account by a philosopher.

Samuel and Pearl Oliner, The Altruistic Personality: Rescuers of Jews in Nazi Europe (New York, NY: Free Press, 1988). Classic study of different types of rescuer (also difference in context of rescue, e.g. between places where you could assume your neighbors would be supportive of rescue attempts and the more common situation where you could assume they would not)—e.g. whether rescuers were more religious than non-rescuers.

Lawrence Blum, "Altruism and the Moral Value of Rescue," in Moral Perception and Particularity (New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 1994). Partly a commentary on Oliner book. Discussion of some general issues about altruism in rescue context, including issue of whether altruism needs to be "universal" to have moral value. (This is an issue that relates to the "love" topic (#2).) This is a different article than the one I wrote on the village, but it is from the same collection of mine. (There is a 3<sup>rd</sup> one in that collection, which talks about two of the village leaders, along with Oskar Schindler.)

Kristen Monroe, The Heart of Altruism: Perceptions of a Common Humanity (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1996). Political psychologist's discussion of various moral types, one of which is rescuers, and their motivational structure. She argues that altruists see the world differently from non-altruists.

Neera Badhwar, "Altruism Versus Self-Interest: Sometimes a False Dichotomy" contains a good philosophical discussion of both the Monroe and the Oliner books and research. It appears in the journal *Social Philosophy and Policy*, vol. 10, #1, winter 1993. The whole issue is on Altruism, and other articles there might be of interest.

### **The giving of blood and other sociological dimensions of altruism:**

(The one thing we read related to this is the article by Peter Singer on the market in blood.)

Kieran Healy, Last Best Gifts: Altruism and the Market for Human Blood and Organs (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2006). This book is an updating of the issues discussed by Titmuss, whom Singer defends against Arrow. It is very interesting, what I've read of it, and would be a good basis for a topic that deals with the general issues Singer raises, which themselves relate in a more general way to some of the issues related to the rescuers, especially in relation to social influences on altruism.