

FROM PRINCIPLES TO
PRACTICE

Normativity and Judgement in Ethics and Politics

ONORA O'NEILL

Emeritus, University of Cambridge



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>page</i> vii
Introduction: taking principles seriously	1
Bibliographical note on references to Kant's work	7
PART I PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES AND RELEVANT DESCRIPTIONS	9
1 Modern moral philosophy and the problem of relevant descriptions	11
2 Two cultures fifty years on	26
3 Scientific inquiry and normative reasoning	40
PART II ABSTRACT PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL JUDGEMENT	53
4 Abstraction, idealisation and ideology in ethics	55
5 Normativity and practical judgement	71
6 Instituting principles: between duty and action	87
7 Experts, practitioners and practical judgement	105
8 Kant on indeterminacy, judgement and interpretation	120
PART III MEANS, ENDS AND DEMANDS	137
9 Reason and the resolution of disputes	139
10 Consequences for non-consequentialists	151
11 Demandingness and rules	163

PART IV 'APPLIED' ETHICS AND PRACTICAL JUDGEMENT	175
12 Applied ethics: naturalism, normativity and public policy	177
13 Practical principles and practical judgement in bioethics	193
14 Enactable and enforceable: Kant's criteria for right and virtue	209
<i>Index</i>	222