



# The Point of View of the Universe: Sidgwick and Contemporary Ethics

By Katarzyna de Lazari-Radek, Peter Singer

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

## The Point of View of the Universe: Sidgwick and Contemporary Ethics By Katarzyna de Lazari-Radek, Peter Singer

What does the idea of taking 'the point of view of the universe' tell us about ethics? The great nineteenth-century utilitarian Henry Sidgwick used this metaphor to present what he took to be a self-evident moral truth: the good of one individual is of no more importance than the good of any other. Ethical judgments, he held, are objective truths that we can know by reason. The ethical axioms he took to be self-evident provide a foundation for utilitarianism. He supplements this foundation with an argument that nothing except states of consciousness have ultimate value, which led him to hold that pleasure is the only thing that is intrinsically good.

Are these claims defensible? Katarzyna de Lazari-Radek and Peter Singer test them against a variety of views held by contemporary writers in ethics, and conclude that they are. This book is therefore a defence of objectivism in ethics, and of hedonistic utilitarianism. The authors also explore, and in most cases support, Sidgwick's views on many other key questions in ethics: how to justify an ethical theory, the significance of an evolutionary explanation of our moral judgments, the choice between preference-utilitarianism and hedonistic utilitarianism, the conflict between self-interest and universal benevolence, whether something that it would be wrong to do openly can be right if kept secret, how demanding utilitarianism is, whether we should discount the future, or favor those who are worse off, the moral status of animals, and what is an optimum population.

 [Download The Point of View of the Universe: Sidgwick and Co ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Point of View of the Universe: Sidgwick and ...pdf](#)

# **The Point of View of the Universe: Sidgwick and Contemporary Ethics**

*By Katarzyna de Lazari-Radek, Peter Singer*

**The Point of View of the Universe: Sidgwick and Contemporary Ethics** By Katarzyna de Lazari-Radek, Peter Singer

What does the idea of taking 'the point of view of the universe' tell us about ethics? The great nineteenth-century utilitarian Henry Sidgwick used this metaphor to present what he took to be a self-evident moral truth: the good of one individual is of no more importance than the good of any other. Ethical judgments, he held, are objective truths that we can know by reason. The ethical axioms he took to be self-evident provide a foundation for utilitarianism. He supplements this foundation with an argument that nothing except states of consciousness have ultimate value, which led him to hold that pleasure is the only thing that is intrinsically good.

Are these claims defensible? Katarzyna de Lazari-Radek and Peter Singer test them against a variety of views held by contemporary writers in ethics, and conclude that they are. This book is therefore a defence of objectivism in ethics, and of hedonistic utilitarianism. The authors also explore, and in most cases support, Sidgwick's views on many other key questions in ethics: how to justify an ethical theory, the significance of an evolutionary explanation of our moral judgments, the choice between preference-utilitarianism and hedonistic utilitarianism, the conflict between self-interest and universal benevolence, whether something that it would be wrong to do openly can be right if kept secret, how demanding utilitarianism is, whether we should discount the future, or favor those who are worse off, the moral status of animals, and what is an optimum population.

**The Point of View of the Universe: Sidgwick and Contemporary Ethics** By Katarzyna de Lazari-Radek, Peter Singer **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #1181140 in Books
- Published on: 2014-07-22
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.40" h x 1.30" w x 9.30" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 432 pages



[Download The Point of View of the Universe: Sidgwick and Co ...pdf](#)



[Read Online The Point of View of the Universe: Sidgwick and ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online The Point of View of the Universe: Sidgwick and Contemporary Ethics By Katarzyna de Lazari-Radek, Peter Singer

---

### Editorial Review

#### Review

"[The authors]...do something new and worthwhile. They present Sidgwick's most important ideas in an admirably clear and accessible way...And they do a fine job of illuminating connections between ideas discussed by Sidgwick and related ideas in contemporary moral philosophy." -- *Mind*

#### About the Author

**Katarzyna de Lazari-Radek** is a Polish utilitarian philosopher, working as an assistant professor at the Institute of Philosophy at the University of Lodz. She received her PhD at the same university. She is the author of several articles in Polish and English on Henry Sidgwick, utilitarianism, bioethics, and philosophy for children.

**Peter Singer** first became well-known internationally after the publication of *Animal Liberation* in 1975. Since then he has written, co-authored, edited or co-edited more than forty other books, including *Practical Ethics*, *The Expanding Circle*, *How Are We to Live?*, *Rethinking Life and Death*, *The Ethics of What We Eat* (with Jim Mason), and *The Life You Can Save*. He was born in Melbourne, Australia, and educated at the University of Melbourne and the University of Oxford. Since 1999 he has been Ira W. DeCamp Professor of Bioethics in the University Center for Human Values at Princeton University, a position that, since 2005, he has combined with that of Laureate Professor at the University of Melbourne. In 2005 *Time* magazine named him one of the 100 most influential people in the world, and in 2012, he was made a Companion of the Order of Australia, the nation's highest civic honour.

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

##### **Brenda Blackmer:**

The book The Point of View of the Universe: Sidgwick and Contemporary Ethics make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You should use to make your capable a lot more increase. Book can to get your best friend when you getting strain or having big problem together with your subject. If you can make studying a book The Point of View of the Universe: Sidgwick and Contemporary Ethics being your habit, you can get considerably more advantages, like add your own capable, increase your knowledge about several or all subjects. It is possible to know everything if you like start and read a guide The Point of View of the Universe: Sidgwick and Contemporary Ethics. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science e-book or encyclopedia or others. So , how do you think about this guide?

**Brian Street:**

People live in this new moment of lifestyle always try and and must have the time or they will get wide range of stress from both everyday life and work. So , once we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely yes. People is human not a robot. Then we ask again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to an individual of course your answer can unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, often the book you have read is definitely The Point of View of the Universe: Sidgwick and Contemporary Ethics.

**Cecilia Moore:**

In this period of time globalization it is important to someone to receive information. The information will make professionals understand the condition of the world. The fitness of the world makes the information quicker to share. You can find a lot of referrals to get information example: internet, newspapers, book, and soon. You will observe that now, a lot of publisher this print many kinds of book. The book that recommended to your account is The Point of View of the Universe: Sidgwick and Contemporary Ethics this reserve consist a lot of the information of the condition of this world now. This particular book was represented how do the world has grown up. The dialect styles that writer value to explain it is easy to understand. The actual writer made some exploration when he makes this book. Here is why this book ideal all of you.

**Christina Webb:**

This The Point of View of the Universe: Sidgwick and Contemporary Ethics is fresh way for you who has fascination to look for some information as it relief your hunger associated with. Getting deeper you into it getting knowledge more you know otherwise you who still having small amount of digest in reading this The Point of View of the Universe: Sidgwick and Contemporary Ethics can be the light food for yourself because the information inside this book is easy to get by simply anyone. These books build itself in the form and that is reachable by anyone, yep I mean in the e-book contact form. People who think that in reserve form make them feel tired even dizzy this publication is the answer. So there is absolutely no in reading a guide especially this one. You can find what you are looking for. It should be here for anyone. So , don't miss this! Just read this e-book kind for your better life in addition to knowledge.

**Download and Read Online The Point of View of the Universe:  
Sidgwick and Contemporary Ethics By Katarzyna de Lazari-Radek,  
Peter Singer #HBG2NSCIM5Z**

# **Read The Point of View of the Universe: Sidgwick and Contemporary Ethics By Katarzyna de Lazari-Radek, Peter Singer for online ebook**

The Point of View of the Universe: Sidgwick and Contemporary Ethics By Katarzyna de Lazari-Radek, Peter Singer Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Point of View of the Universe: Sidgwick and Contemporary Ethics By Katarzyna de Lazari-Radek, Peter Singer books to read online.

## **Online The Point of View of the Universe: Sidgwick and Contemporary Ethics By Katarzyna de Lazari-Radek, Peter Singer ebook PDF download**

### **The Point of View of the Universe: Sidgwick and Contemporary Ethics By Katarzyna de Lazari-Radek, Peter Singer Doc**

**The Point of View of the Universe: Sidgwick and Contemporary Ethics By Katarzyna de Lazari-Radek, Peter Singer MobiPocket**

**The Point of View of the Universe: Sidgwick and Contemporary Ethics By Katarzyna de Lazari-Radek, Peter Singer EPub**

**HBG2NSCIM5Z: The Point of View of the Universe: Sidgwick and Contemporary Ethics By Katarzyna de Lazari-Radek, Peter Singer**