

**Tenth Annual**

**Bertram Morris  
Colloquium  
on Social Philosophy**

**Realism,  
Relativism,  
and the  
Objectivity  
of Value**

**February 28 and March 1, 1986**

**Sponsored by the  
Department of  
Philosophy  
University of Colorado  
Boulder**

## Realism, Relativism, and the Objectivity of Value

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

All sessions in Old Main Chapel

2 p.m. Professor Peter Railton,  
University of Michigan  
*Facts and Values*

4 p.m. Dean Everly Fleischer,  
University of Colorado  
Introduction

Professor Hazel Barnes,  
University of Colorado  
*Choosing an Ethic*

8 p.m. President Gordon Gee,  
University of Colorado  
*Welcoming Remarks*

Professor Bernard Williams,  
Cambridge University, England  
*Keynote Address*

9:30 p.m. Reception

Koenig Alumni Center

### SATURDAY, MARCH 1

All sessions in UMC 157

10 a.m. Professor Michael Smith,  
Princeton University  
*Can a Moral Realist  
be a Relativist?*

1 p.m. Professor Catherine Elgin,  
University of North Carolina  
*The Relativity of Fact and  
the Objectivity of Value*

3 p.m. Professor L. W. Sumner,  
University of Toronto, Canada  
*Values and the Environment*

**The Department of Philosophy** presents the tenth annual Colloquium on Social Philosophy in honor of its late colleague Bertram Morris, and as a public service to the community. Following the commitments of its namesake, each colloquium considers the philosophical significance of contemporary social issues. This year's colloquium seeks to explore some of the fundamental value issues that underlie many different contemporary problems. The department believes that these discussions contribute to public understanding of current policy problems.

**Bertram Morris** was born in Denver in 1908 and died in Boulder in 1981. He was educated at Princeton and Cornell. In 1947 he joined the faculty of the University of Colorado, where he taught until his retirement in 1977. During that time he won many awards and honors, including the Thomas Jefferson Award and the Research Lectureship. He published several books including *The Aesthetic Process*, *Philosophical Aspects of Culture*, and *Institutions of Intelligence*.

Bertram Morris is remembered as much for his committed involvement in the social issues of his community as for his scholarly work. In 1953 he began an outreach program at Manual High School in Denver that still continues. In 1975 he was given a special award by the American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado for his efforts on behalf of academic freedom, and his work to improve conditions at the Boulder County jail.

In token of their admiration and gratitude his departmental colleagues instituted this colloquium upon his retirement in 1977.

**Hazel Barnes** is Robert B. Hawkins Distinguished Professor of Humanities at the University of Colorado, Boulder. In her more than thirty years at the University she has taught in the Departments of Classics and Integrated Studies, as well as in Philosophy. She has won the Teaching Recognition Award, and prizes for the best published faculty book and essay. She

has been Visiting Professor of Philosophy at Yale. Distinguished Visiting Professor of Classics at San Diego State, and Andrew Mellon Visiting Professor of Humanities at Tulane. Professor Barnes is perhaps best known for her work on Sartre, notably her translations of *Being and Nothingness* and *Search for a Method*, and her books *Sartre (1973)* and *Sartre and Flaubert (1981)*. She has also written a number of other books, including *An Existentialist Ethics (1967)* and *The Meddling Gods: Four Essays on Classical Themes (1974)*.

**Bernard Williams** is Provost, King's College, Cambridge, and formerly Knightbridge Professor of Philosophy at Cambridge University. He has been a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, and Professor of Philosophy at Bedford College, London. He has held visiting appointments at Harvard, Princeton, and the University of California, Berkeley, as well as at universities in Ghana and Australia. Among his many books are *Problems of the Self (1973)*, *Descartes: The Project of Pure Inquiry (1978)*, *Moral Luck (1981)*, and most recently, *Ethics and the Limits of Philosophy (1985)*. Professor Williams has also been active in British public life, notably as a Director of the English National Opera, and as Chairman of the Committee on Obscenity and Film Censorship. He is now working on a book, with Geoffrey Hawthorn, on the prospects for democratic socialism.

**Catherine Elgin** is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She was a Mellon Fellow at Harvard, and has also been awarded an American Council of Learned Societies Research Fellowship. She is the author of *With Reference to Reference (1983)*, and is currently working on a book, tentatively entitled, *Philosophy Without Foundations*.

**Peter Railton** is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He also has been Visiting Associate Professor at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author of a number of influential papers in philosophy of science, moral philosophy, and political philosophy. His paper, "Moral Realism," is forthcoming in the *Philosophical Review*.

**Michael Smith** is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Princeton University. He received his B.A. and M.A. from Monash University in Australia, and a B.Phil. from Oxford University. He has recently submitted a thesis on moral realism for the D.Phil. degree at Oxford. Professor Smith works on various topics in ethics, philosophy of mind, and metaphysics.

**L. W. Sumner** is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Toronto. He has received several grants from the Canada Council, and an American Council of Learned Societies Research Fellowship. He is coeditor of *Necessary Truth: A Book of Readings (1969)*, and *Pragmatism and Purpose: Essays Presented to Thomas A. Gouge (1981)*. He is the author of the influential book, *Abortion and Moral Theory (1981)*, and the forthcoming *The Moral Foundations of Rights*.