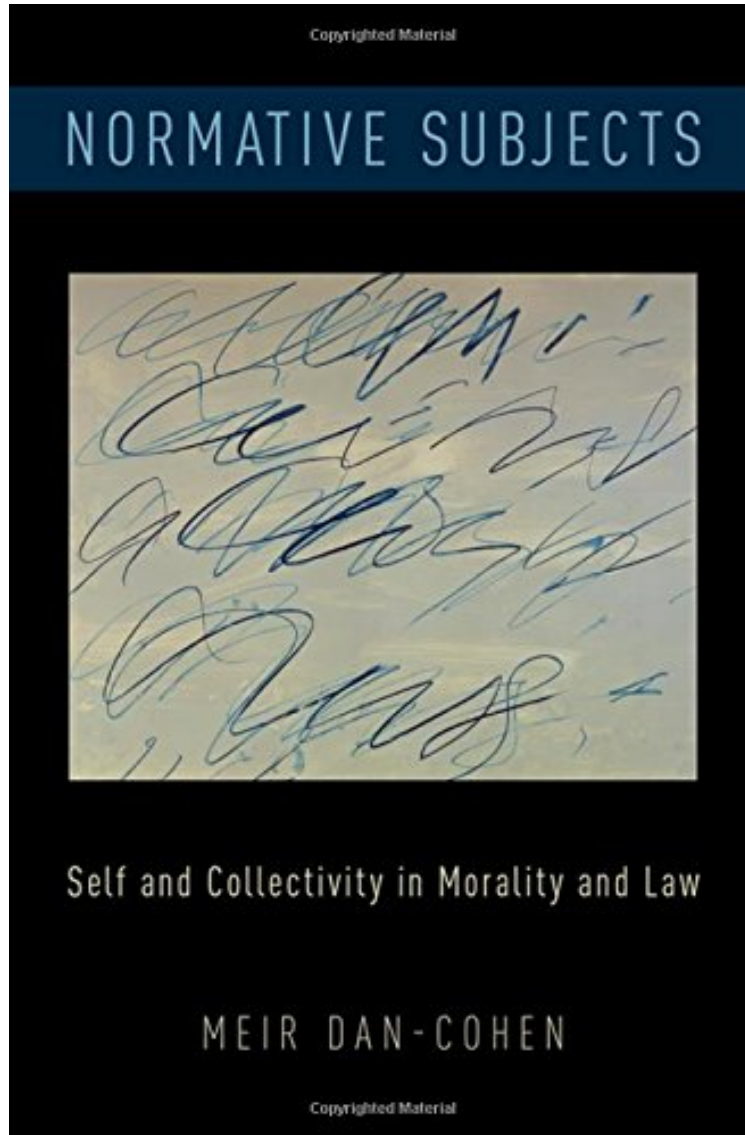


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Normative Subjects: Self and Collectivity in Morality and Law

Meir Dan-Cohen

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Meir Dan-Cohen : Normative Subjects: Self and Collectivity in Morality and Law before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Normative Subjects: Self and Collectivity in Morality and Law:

Normative Subjects alludes to the fields of morality and law, as well as to the entities, self and collectivity, addressed by these clusters of norms. The book explores connections between the two. The conception of self that informs this book is the joint product of two multifaceted philosophical strands, the constructivist and the hermeneutical. Various schools of thought view human beings as self creating: by pursuing our goals and promoting our projects, and so while abiding by the various norms that guide us in these endeavors, we also determine human identity. The result is an emphasis on a reciprocal relationship between law and morality on the one side and the composition and boundaries of the self on the other. In what medium does this self creation take place, and who exactly is the "we" engaged in it? The answer suggested by the hermeneutical tradition provides the book with its second main theme. Like plays and novels, human beings are constituted by meaning, and these meanings vary in their level of abstraction. Self creation is a matter of fixing and elaborating these meanings at different levels of abstraction: the individual, the collective, and the universal. A key implication of this picture, explored in the book, is a conception of human dignity as accruing to us qua authors of the values and norms by which we define our selves individually and collectively.

"Professor Dan-Cohen is one of the deepest and most interesting thinkers in the academy. Interweaving law, philosophy, and sociology, his work is always stimulating and constructively provocative. Dan-Cohen has a distinctive and highly independent point of view, engagement with which leads the reader to consider matters in a different way than the standard frames pursued within the literature. This fascinating collection will significantly enhance the field." -- Seana Valentine Shiffrin, Professor of Philosophy and Pete Kameron Professor of Law and Social Justice, UCLA "Meir Dan-Cohen is one of the most interesting and exciting legal philosophers of our time. His work is a breath of fresh air in a field that can get too rarified and too caught up in its own intramural disputes. The essays collected in this volume are classic Dan-Cohen: smart, provocative, different, influential, and original. They reframe old debates in new light." -- Ethan J. Leib, Professor of Law, Fordham Law School "Meir Dan-Cohen's book is challenging and philosophically rich in all the best ways. Its more ethereal Kantian aspects are leavened by his lawyerly knowledge, and its sensible humanism is deepened by his capacity for trenchant philosophical analysis. One hopes that its essays will provide opportunities for careful critique and its book-like qualities will invite ambitious philosophical theory constructors in years to come." --Notre Dame Philosophical s About the Author Meir Dan-Cohen is Milo Reese Robbins Chair in Legal Ethics, School of Law and Affiliated Professor, Department of Philosophy, at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author of *Rights, Persons, and Organizations* (2nd Edition 2016), and *Harmful Thoughts: Essays on Law, Self and Morality* (2002).