

# Contents

## INTRODUCTION

- 1 SEARCHING FOR A SCIENCE OF MORALITY 3

## I MORAL EXPERIMENTS

- 2 ECONOMIC GAMES 17
- 3 THE ASSURANCE GAME 29
- 4 RECIPROCITY 45
- 5 ASABIYA 55
- 6 SOCIAL CONTROL 73

## II HOW WE CHOOSE

- 7 THE NEUROSCIENCE OF CHOICE 91
- 8 MORAL AND IMMORAL ACTIONS 103
- 9 INTRINSIC GOALS 125
- 10 EMPATHY AND TRUST 145
- 11 TRAUMA, MORAL INJURY, AND RESILIENCE 155

## TRANSITION

- 12 FROM SCIENCE TO ENGINEERING 169

### **III INSTITUTIONS AND POLICIES**

- 13 THE RULES OF THE ROAD** 187
- 14 JUSTICE AND REDEMPTION** 207
- 15 RELIGION** 223
- 16 GOVERNMENT** 241
- 17 BEYOND HUMANITY** 251

### **IV THE NEW SCIENCE OF MORALITY**

- 18 BEYOND MORAL RELATIVISM** 265
- 19 BETTER MORAL STRUCTURES** 273
- 20 CONCLUSION** 291

Acknowledgments 297

Glossary 299

Notes 305

Bibliography 329

Index 357

# **CHANGING HOW WE CHOOSE**

**The New Science of Morality**

**A. DAVID REDISH**

**The MIT Press  
Cambridge, Massachusetts  
London, England**

© 2022 Massachusetts Institute of Technology

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form by any electronic or mechanical means (including photocopying, recording, or information storage and retrieval) without permission in writing from the publisher.

The MIT Press would like to thank the anonymous peer reviewers who provided comments on drafts of this book. The generous work of academic experts is essential for establishing the authority and quality of our publications. We acknowledge with gratitude the contributions of these otherwise uncredited readers.

This book was set in Adobe Garamond and Berthold Akzidenz Grotesk by Jen Jackowitz. Printed and bound in the United States of America.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Redish, A. David, author.

Title: Changing how we choose : the new science of morality / A. David Redish.

Description: Cambridge, Massachusetts : The MIT Press, [2022] | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2021060558 (print) | LCCN 2021060559 (ebook) |

ISBN 9780262047364 (hardcover) | ISBN 9780262371438 (epub) |

ISBN 9780262371445 (pdf)

Subjects: LCSH: Decision making—Moral and ethical aspects. | Social ethics.

Classification: LCC BF448 .R39 2022 (print) | LCC BF448 (ebook) |

DDC 170—dc23/eng/20220517

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2021060558>

LC ebook record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2021060559>

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1