

# JAMES RACHELS

## Dates

Born May 30, 1941, in Columbus, Georgia  
Died September 5, 2003, in Birmingham, Alabama

## James Rachels' Website

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## James Rachels' Literary Executor

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## Education

B.A., Mercer University, 1962  
Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1967

## Academic Jobs

University of Richmond, 1966-68  
New York University, 1968-72  
University of Miami, 1972-77  
Duke University, 1975  
University of Alabama at Birmingham, 1977-2003  
    Chair, Department of Philosophy, 1977-79  
    Dean, School of Humanities, 1978-83  
    Academic Vice President (acting), 1983  
    University Professor, 1984-2003

## Books

*The Elements of Moral Philosophy*. New York: Random House, 1986. Second edition, McGraw-Hill, 1992. Third edition, 1999. Fourth edition, 2002. Fifth edition (by Stuart Rachels), 2007. Sixth edition (by Stuart Rachels), 2010. Also published in Italian, Portuguese, Chinese, Indonesian, Korean, Spanish, and Norwegian.

*The End of Life: Euthanasia and Morality*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1986. Also published in Dutch, Serbo-Croatian, Italian, and Japanese.

*Created From Animals: The Moral Implications of Darwinism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1990. Also published in Italian, Japanese and Korean.

*Can Ethics Provide Answers? And Other Essays in Moral Philosophy.* Totowa, N.J.: Rowman and Littlefield, 1997.

*Problems from Philosophy.* New York: McGraw-Hill, 2005. Second edition (by Stuart Rachels), 2009.

*The Legacy of Socrates: Essays in Moral Philosophy.* New York: Columbia University Press, 2007. Edited by Stuart Rachels.

### **Books edited**

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*Philosophical Issues: A Contemporary Introduction* (co-editor, with Frank A. Tillman). New York: Harper & Row, 1972.

*Understanding Moral Philosophy.* Encino, Cal.: Dickenson, 1976.

*The Right Thing to Do.* New York: Random House, 1989. Second edition, McGraw-Hill, 1999. Third edition, 2002. Fourth edition (by Stuart Rachels), 2007. Fifth edition (by Stuart Rachels), 2010.

*Ethical Theory 1: The Question of Objectivity.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.

*Ethical Theory 2: Theories About How We Should Live.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.

*The Truth about the World: Basic Readings in Philosophy.* New York: McGraw-Hill, 2005. Second edition (by Stuart Rachels), 2009.

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*Philosophy for a New Generation*, ed. Bierman and Gould; *Virtue and Vice in Everyday Life*, ed. Sommers; *Right and Wrong*, ed. Sommers; *From Socrates to Cinema: An Introduction to Philosophy*, ed. Di Leo

Reasons for Action. *The Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, vol. 1 (1971), 173-187.

God and Human Attitudes. *Religious Studies*, vol. 7 (1971), 325-337.

Reprinted in: *Contemporary Philosophy of Religion*, ed. Cahn and Shatz; *Divine Commands and Morality*, ed. Helm; *Philosophy and the Human Condition*, ed. Feinberg et. al.; *Introduction to Philosophy*, ed. Pojman. Reprinted with revisions as "God and Moral Autonomy" in James Rachels, *Can Ethics Provide Answers? And Other Essays in Moral Philosophy*.

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Why Privacy is Important. *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, vol. 4 (1975), 323-333.

Reprinted in: *Philosophical Dimensions of Privacy*, ed. Schoeman; *Ethical Issues in the Use of Computers*, ed. Johnson; *Computers, Ethics, and Social Values*, ed. Johnson & Nissenbaum; *Applied Ethics in American Society*, ed. Wilcox and Wilcox; *Computers, Ethics and Society*, ed. Ermann, Williams, and Shauf. Reprinted with revisions in James Rachels, *Can Ethics Provide Answers? And Other Essays in Moral Philosophy*.

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Reprinted in *I Diritti Degli Animali*, ed. Silvana Castignone (Italian translation). A revised part of this paper was incorporated into "Do Animals Have Rights?," James Rachels, *Can Ethics Provide Answers? And Other Essays in Moral Philosophy*.

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*Provide Answers? And Other Essays in Moral Philosophy.*

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Lives and Liberty. (Co-author with William Ruddick). *The Inner Citadel*, edited by John Christman (New York: Oxford University Press, 1989), 221-233.

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Reprinted in James Rachels, *The Legacy of Socrates: Essays in Moral Philosophy*.

Animals and Ethics. *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (London: Routledge, 1998), I: 273-276.

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Reprinted in: *Doing Ethics*, ed. Vaughn; James Rachels, *The Legacy of Socrates: Essays in Moral Philosophy*.

The Basic Argument for Vegetarianism. *Food for Thought: The Debate over Eating Meat*, ed. Steve F. Sapontzis (Amherst, N.Y.: Prometheus Books, 2004), 70-80.  
Reprinted in James Rachels, *The Legacy of Socrates: Essays in Moral Philosophy*.

Egoism. Published as a 3-page appendix to Stuart Rachels and Torin Alter, "Nothing Matters in Survival," *The Journal of Ethics*, vol. 9, No. 3-4 (October 2005), 311-330.

## Reviews

Review of *Ludwig Wittgenstein* by David Pears. *The New York Times Book Review*, January 31, 1971, 22.

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### **Miscellaneous**

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