



# Truth and Objectivity

*By Crispin Wright*

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Crispin Wright offers an original perspective on the place of "realism" in philosophical inquiry. He proposes a radically new framework for discussing the claims of the realists and the anti-realists. This framework rejects the classical "deflationary" conception of truth yet allows both disputants to respect the intuition that judgments, whose status they contest, are at least semantically fitted for truth and may often justifiably be regarded as true. In the course of his argument, Wright offers original critical discussions of many central concerns of philosophers interested in realism, including the "deflationary" conception of truth, internal realist truth, scientific realism and the theoreticity of observation, and the role of moral states of affairs in explanations of moral beliefs.

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## Truth and Objectivity By Crispin Wright Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2205366 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Harvard University Press
- Published on: 1994-01-01
- Released on: 1994-01-31
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.25" h x .66" w x 6.00" l, .87 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 262 pages

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

*Truth and Objectivity* is a strikingly resourceful and serious book, imbued with respect for the difficulty of philosophical problems and a readiness to probe them with all the conceptual instruments of contemporary analytic philosophy. (timothy Williamson *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*)

A milestone in the discussion of realism (Jim Edwards *Mind*)

Besides its thorough and subtle examination of [the] multiple criteria of realism, the merit of *Truth and Objectivity* is to have shown how the naive picture of 'objective facts' fragments under scrutiny, to the point that it becomes unclear that we should continue to speak of realism and anti-realism within a domain as if they were definitive positions. (Paul Horwich *Times Literary Supplement*)

Full of interesting ideas and challenging arguments, (Frank Jackson *Philosophical Books*)

### **From the Back Cover**

Philosophy, in seeking after truth, must also grapple with questions about the nature and status of truth itself. Is there, for example, such a thing as fully objective truth, or is our talk of "truth" merely a projection onto the world of what we find acceptable in moral argument, scientific theory, mathematical discourse? Such questions are at the center of *Truth and Objectivity*, which offers an original perspective on the place of "realism" in philosophical inquiry. Crispin Wright proposes a radically new framework for the discussion of the claims of the realists who think of truth as fully objective and the anti-realists who oppose them - a framework which rejects the classical "deflationary" conception of truth yet allows both realist and antirealist to respect the intuition that judgements whose status they contest, such as those in moral argument and theoretical science, may often justifiably be regarded as true. The real issues that must be resolved if the contest between realist and anti-realist views of a range of judgements is to be properly adjudicated are different, and are here developed in detail from a sharply novel perspective. In addition, Wright offers original critical discussions of many central concerns of philosophers interested in realism, including the "deflationary" conception of truth, internal realist truth, scientific realism and the theoreticity of observation, truth and "correspondence to fact," role of moral states of affairs in explanations of moral beliefs, anti-realism about content, and the "quietism" toward this whole tradition of debate favored by some philosophers of Wittgensteinian sympathies. Wright's proposals are arrestingly original, interesting, and rich in implication. Recasting important questions about truth and objectivity in new and helpful terms, his book will become a focus in the contemporary debates over realism, and will give new impetus to these debates in all areas of philosophy.

### **About the Author**

Crispin Wright is Leverhulme Research Professor and Bishop Wardlaw Professor at the University of St. Andrews and is Global Distinguished Professor at New York University.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

**Jennifer Rogers:**

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**Robert Frith:**

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