

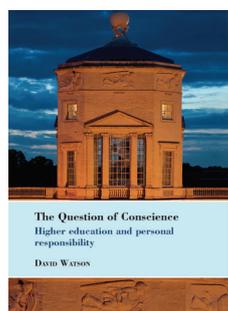
The Question of Conscience

Higher education and personal responsibility

David Watson

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Most of the claims about the purposes and achievements of higher education are irreducibly individualistic: it will change your life, through conversion or confirmation of faith, by improving your character, by giving you marketable “abilities,” by making you a better member of the community, or by being simply “capable” of operating more effectively in the contemporary world. All of these qualities scale up, of course, but in differing ways.

David Watson explores the question of what higher education sets out to do for students through a number of lenses, including the “evolutionary” stages of modern university history, the sense participants and observers try to make of them, and a collection of “purposes,” or intended personal transformations. The resulting combinations are clustered, around major questions about the role of universities for their students, and in society at large. He concludes by testing claims about the role of higher education in developing varieties of personal responsibility. This book identifies and explores how varied these claims have been over the long history of the higher enterprise, but also how strong and determined they invariably are.

David Watson is Professor of Higher Education and Principal of Green Templeton College, University of Oxford.

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1. Conscience as pluralistic, neutral and subjective. The concept of conscience does not bear any connection with any particular substantial moral view (Broad 1940). The voice of conscience might suggest different principles and different behaviors to different people. In other words, there is no psychological or conceptual relation between conscience and any particular moral belief. The knowledge in question is typically (though, as explained below, not always) the ground for a moral assessment by conscience. When observing one's behavior, conscience is more like a judge (or sometimes it is identified with the judgment itself) than like a disinterested observer. conscience meaning, definition, what is conscience: the part of your mind that tells you whe...: Learn more. A medical staff (=a situation in which it is very difficult to decide what is the right thing to do) Do not confuse with consciousness (=the condition of being awake and aware of things). 2 a guilty feeling that you have about something bad you have donetwinge/pang of conscience Ian felt a pang of conscience at having misjudged. A Question of Conscience. Sunday Worship. Former army chaplain, the Rev Andrew Martlew traces the lives of the Richmond Sixteen, a group of men who refused to take up arms during World War I. Show more. On the 29th May, 1916, the Revd Andrew Martlew's second cousin, Alfred, was marched from his tiny cell in Richmond Castle in North Yorkshire and sent to France to be shot. This is an act of worship about conscience not just theirs then, but ours, now. How far are you and I prepared to go for what we believe is right? That question of divided loyalties is well posed by our opening hymn. The first verse is about loyalty to our country, but the second about loyalty to something else, something greater.