

DAVID E. COOPER



David E. Cooper was brought up in Surrey, and educated at Highgate School and then Oxford University, where he was given his first job in 1967, as a Lecturer in Philosophy. He went on to teach at the universities of Miami, London and Surrey before being appointed, in 1986, as Professor of Philosophy at Durham University – where he remained until retiring in 2008. During his academic career, David was a visiting professor at universities in the United States, Canada, Malta, Sri Lanka, and South Africa. Over the years, he has been the President or Chair of several learned societies - including the Mind Association, the Philosophy of Education Society of Great Britain, and the Friedrich Nietzsche Society – and served on the editorial boards of various journals, including *Contemporary Buddhism*.

David's philosophical interests are wide, ranging from environmental ethics to aesthetics, from the philosophy of language to Asian thought, from the history of philosophy to the philosophy of religion. This breadth of interests is reflected in the many books he has written, which include *Metaphor*, *Existentialism: A Reconstruction*, *World Philosophies: An Historical Introduction*, *The Measure of Things: Humanism, Humility and Mystery*, *Meaning*, and *A Philosophy of Gardens*. He co-authored a book on Buddhism and the environment, edited a *Companion to Aesthetics*, co-edited three interdisciplinary volumes on environmental thought and, most recently co-edited a large treasury of philosophical texts, *Philosophy: The Classic Readings*.

Since retiring from academic life, David has been able to devote more energy – as a trustee and the secretary of the charity Project Sri Lanka – to post-disaster and development initiatives in Sri Lanka in which he has been involved since the Asian tsunami of 2004. He has also been able to devote more time to playing the clarinet, listening to birdsong, gardening, walking by the sea, and writing books and articles free from any institutional pressures to do so. Currently he is engaged in writing a book on music and nature, one which brings together reflections on the two great sources of pleasure that, in recent years, David has realized, have the most significance for him.

David's life is a fairly mobile one, oscillating as he does between Sri Lanka, the island of Gozo, where he and his wife have a house, and their home and garden in a small village in the north of Northumberland, conveniently poised between the Cheviot hills and the beaches which fringe the North Sea.

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