



# Tradition in the Ethics of Alasdair MacIntyre: Relativism, Thomism, and Philosophy

By Christopher Stephen Lutz

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*Tradition in the Ethics of Alasdair MacIntyre* presents a stimulating intellectual history and expertly reasoned defense of this towering figure in contemporary American philosophy. Drawing on interviews and published works, Christopher Lutz traces MacIntyre's philosophical development and refutes the criticisms of the major thinkers?including Martha Nussbaum and Thomas Nagel?who have most vocally attacked him. Permanently shifting the debate on MacIntyre's oeuvre, Lutz convincingly demonstrates how MacIntyre's neo-Aristotelian ethical thought provides an essential corrective to the contemporary discussions of relativism and ideology, while successfully drawing on the objectivity of Thomistic natural law.

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#### **Review**

This manuscript presents the most substantial defense of MacIntyre against criticisms that are becoming tired through excessive repetition. It should serve to shift debate about MacIntyre's work to another and more worthwhile stage. (Kelvin Knight, London Metropolitan University)

I quite think it's the best book we have to date on Alasdair. (Stanley Hauerwas, Gilbert T. Rowe Professor of Theological Ethics, Duke University Divinity School)

Christopher Lutz has written a splendid and measured exposition of my work and has discussed some major criticisms of it with unusual insight into what is at issue. When, on some few occasions, I am not completely certain that I meant what he says that I meant, I generally think that I ought to have meant what he says that I meant. (Alasdair MacIntyre, research professor of philosophy, University of Notre Dame)

This is a first-rate study ? feisty, well-argued, and passionate in defense of its subject. (William Haggerty *Review of Metaphysics*)

#### **About the Author**

**Christopher Stephen Lutz** is assistant professor at Saint Meinrad School of Theology.

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