

Preface

Over the last four decades, Philip Pettit has made a remarkable number of seminal contributions to a variety of fields of philosophy, ranging from metaphysics and the philosophy of mind and action to the philosophy of the social sciences, philosophy of law, ethics, and political philosophy. These works have not only advanced systematic thinking about the most pressing issues debated in the respective areas, they also – and this is particularly exceptional in a time of increasing compartmentalization of philosophy and specialization of scholars – display a continuing quest for systematic coherence. Moreover, especially in his recent work in republican political philosophy, Pettit has demonstrated a thorough concern for the historical depth of conceptual issues and arguments, thus situating his approach to the theories of freedom and democracy in a particular tradition he seeks to revive and update.

Pettit's work has received considerable attention from scholars around the world. This volume adds to the discussion, reception, and interpretation of his work on a range of issues from almost all areas of philosophy. It is based on the 16th *Münster Lectures in Philosophy*, hosted by the Department of Philosophy, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, and held in October 2012. The volume comprises the evening lecture *Freedom and Other Robustly Demanding Goods*, the proceedings of a two-day colloquium during which groups of junior faculty and students presented critical comments on aspects of Pettit's work, and a synoptic reply essay by Philip Pettit.

First and foremost, we would like to thank Philip Pettit for coming to Münster, for delivering the *Münster Lecture* in 2012, and especially for the engaging discussions of his work. We are also very grateful for the support we received from the Department of Philosophy. We owe a special acknowledgment to our colleagues and students for the work they have put into their contributions to the colloquium, as well as to the many helping hands during the event. Finally, we thank Raphael

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