



# A Moral Defense of Prostitution

Rob Lovering

palgrave  
macmillan

### **Praise for *A Moral Defense of Prostitution***

“The enjoyment of sexual pleasure can contribute greatly to a person’s happiness. Prostitution, in providing opportunities for such pleasure, should therefore be viewed as an admirable profession that makes a very welcome contribution to human society. Instead, prostitutes are looked down upon, and prostitution is illegal in many countries and most of the United States. Why is this the case? The reason is that many people are in the grip of unsound arguments that lead them to think that prostitution is morally wrong. Rob Lovering’s book is a welcome correction. Not only is it the first book to survey the wide variety of arguments for the immorality of prostitution, it also sets out—in an admirably clear and accurate fashion—each of the important arguments that have been offered for this view, and then shows convincingly in each case why the argument in question is unsound.” (Michael Tooley, former president of The Australasian Association of Philosophy and President and The American Philosophical Association - Pacific Division)

“The view that prostitution is immoral is taken for granted by most people worldwide. Scholars, policy makers, and the media rarely question prostitution’s moral status, even if they support attempts to legalize it. In his unique book, Rob Lovering offers a tour-de-force analysis of this question. By systematically critiquing the conventional arguments and assumptions, he provides nothing short of a paradigm shift in how we conceptualize prostitution. A ground-breaking book that will help to destigmatize sex work.” (Ronald Weitzer, author of *Sex for Sale: Prostitution, Pornography, and the Sex Industry*)

“Morality politics are wedded to debates about prostitution. This book tackles the arguments against prostitution head on, delving deeply into the intricate yet everyday contestations. Logical arguments that interrogate the moral status of prostitution are important for the sex worker rights movement, and ultimately speaks against the stigmatization of sex workers. This book provides fresh analysis, powerful persuasion and a suite of armor against claims that immorality is intrinsic to prostitution. Useful for activists, policymakers and scholars alike, this extensive coverage of age-old arguments enables critical engagement with ideas which are too often taken for granted.” (Teela Sanders, author of *Sex Work: A Risky Business*)

“Lovering’s book is an important examination of the moral status of prostitution, apart from its legal or prudential profile. This matters. Social perfectionist arguments are used to advance a range of political agendas. History is rife with examples of moral arguments about prostitution being deployed in the service of temperance, eugenics, and nativism. Lovering elucidates the weaknesses of such arguments.” (Jessica Spector, author of *Prostitution and Pornography: Philosophical Debate about the Sex Industry*)