Collective Imaginings shows us how the work of the seventeenth-century philosopher Benedict de Spinoza is still relevant today. Gatens and Lloyd discuss Spinoza’s work from the perspective of a concern with contemporary issues of freedom, responsibility and the understanding of difference.

In re-emphasising the continuities between Spinoza’s philosophy and its Stoic sources, this book offers ways of re-thinking contemporary attitudes towards community and difference, freedom and necessity, reason and imagination. We see that what emerges is a concept of responsibility centred less on what we, as individuals, have done than on what we collectively are.

This ground-breaking study will be invaluable reading to students and academics wishing to gain a fresh perspective on Spinoza’s thought.

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