

Umani e animali: questioni di etica. Una replica

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Reply to Filippo Magni and Francesca Rescigno

Abstract: Filippo Magni in his discussion of my book *Umani e animali: questioni di etica* (*Humans and animals: ethical issues*) critically discusses my dismissal of the methods and aims of top-down normative ethical theories. I try to argue in favor of such a dismissal trying to highlight the difference between theorizing in science and theorizing in ethics. Moral transformations can very difficultly be triggered by abstract ethical theories. About the topic of transformations in human/animal relationships Francesca Rescigno stresses the importance of the law in producing meaningful changes and casts doubts about the possibility that individual moral reflection and behavior could be enough to produce moral progress. I agree on the importance of the law, but I also try to argue in favor of the idea that changes in jurisprudence are produced mostly by changes in the ordinary moral reflection of human beings of a given society.

Keywords: Ethics, Human/Animal relationships, Moral progress, Law.

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