Issues of Intergenerational Justice

Comments on Axel Gosseries' What is Intergenerational Justice?

Intergenerational Harms and the Non-identity Problem

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Abstract: This article discusses the consequence of the non-identity challenge to the standard concept of harm and to the meaningfulness of intergenerational morality, as well as the strategies proposed by Gosseries to avoid these problems. It tries to argue that all these strategies are unnecessary, because the non-identity challenge is not as dangerous as the author believes: it is not true that the non-identity problem makes the standard notion of harm (or benefit) unapplicable, and therefore it is not true that it makes moral obligations toward future generations meaningless.

Keywords: Harm, Benefit, Future generation, Non-identity problem, Person-affecting restriction.

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