

Eliminative and Manipulative Agency in the Ethics of Self-Defence

0900-1800 June 15th 2010, James Martin 21st Century School, Oxford

SPEAKERS

DR. HELEN FROWE (SHEFFIELD)
'Threats and Bystanders'

DR. GERALD LANG (LEEDS)
'Self-Defence and Agency'

DR. SETH LAZAR (OXFORD)
'Scepticism about the Eliminative/Manipulative Agency Distinction'

PROFESSOR VICTOR TADROS (WARWICK)
'Duty and Liability'

RESPONDENTS

JO FIRTH (OXFORD)
DR. JON QUONG (MANCHESTER)
DR. DAVID RODIN (OXFORD)
GUY SELA (OXFORD)

Kima has been drugged and abandoned at the bottom of a well. She wakes up to see Niko hurtling towards her. He was walking alongside the (concealed) well when a powerful gust of wind blew him down it. If Kima does nothing Niko's body will crush her, but he will survive. Or, she can save herself, using her trusty ray gun to disintegrate his body. Most people think Kima is justified in killing Niko to save herself, even though Niko is quite innocent of the threat he poses. But why? One answer is that killing Niko is an example of eliminative agency – Kima is not benefiting from Niko's presence, but merely eliminating the threat that he poses. This is easier to justify than manipulative agency, which would involve using Niko's body to secure a benefit she could not enjoy in his absence. This workshop brings together some of the UK's leading philosophers of self-defence to discuss the eliminative/manipulative agency distinction, and assess its contribution to the ethics of self-defence.

Lunch served. Papers will be pre-circulated a week in advance. Everyone is welcome, but registration is required. Numbers will be limited so register early to avoid disappointment. Please contact lucy.crittenden@politics.ox.ac.uk to register .