

# MORAL FOUNDATIONS

Session 5: Moral Foundations

09.12.2016

2

## Overview

Section	Focus	Topics
<b>I. Classical Liberalism</b>	2. Planning and Knowledge 3. Rule of Law 4. Critique of Social Justice	Free Markets, Spontaneous Order
<b>II. Philosophical Libertarianism</b>	5. Moral Foundations 6. Entitlement Theory 7. Self-Ownership	Property Rights, Individualism
<b>III. Anarchism</b>	8. Against the State 9. The Minimal State 10. Alternatives to the State	Scepticism about Authority
<b>IV. The Influence of Libertarianism</b>	11. Ayn Rand 12. Neoliberalism 13. Future of Libertarianism	History
<b>V. Left-Libertarianism</b>	14. Left-Libertarianism 15. Basic Income 16. Historic Injustice	Property Rights
<b>VI. Criticism</b>	17. Moral Foundations 18. Environment and Pollution 19. Freedom	

09.12.2016

3

## Contents

1. Moral Foundations (in Libertarianism)
2. Rights: Constraints and Goals
3. Why Constraints?
4. The Non-Aggression Principle

09.12.2016

4

# MORAL FOUNDATIONS OF LIBERTARIANISM

09.12.2016 5

## Moral Foundations

- Can there be deductive/convincing arguments about moral foundations?
  - What is the deductive argument in favour of utilitarianism/egalitarianism/...?
- If giving a deductive moral argument is impossible, why should we care about foundations at all?
  - See how different ideas fit together—test consistency
  - Be clear on the first axioms you need to accept
  - Contrast different moral theories, and allow us to see differences
- Nozick merely sketches possible foundations—he's more interested in raising questions than giving conclusive answers

09.12.2016 6

## LOGIC OF RIGHTS

09.12.2016 7

## Constraints and Goals

- **Goals:** You should aim to bring about X
- **Constraints:** You should not to do X under any circumstances
- Nozick's central insight: **Rights work like constraints, not like aims**

09.12.2016 8

## The Paradox of Constraints

- In a burning museum, you can destroy one painting to avoid the destruction of five other paintings
- In a burning orphanage, you can kill one orphan to save the killings of five other people

09.12.2016 9

## Questions

1. If we care about people, why would we not care about the absolute number of rights violations?
2. Do side-constraints have to be absolute? Can they allow exceptions?
3. Does accepting side-constraints mean that there cannot be any goals in our moral theory?

09.12.2016 10

## The Missing Link

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graph TD; A[There are side-constraints in morality] --> B[There are absolute side-constraints in morality]; B --> C[There are absolute libertarian side-constraints in morality];
```

There are side-constraints in morality

There are **absolute** side-constraints in morality

There are **absolute libertarian** side-constraints in morality