

Topics in Social Evaluation

Matthew Braham, Dept. of Philosophy, University of Bayreuth
Martin van Hees, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Groningen

This course will introduce fundamental issues and controversies that underpin the evaluation of social states of affairs. In this sense the topic primarily concerns welfare economics and ethics. The course is structured around the two main dogmas of ethical analysis: consequentialism and deontology. We will discuss how these two dogmas form practical evaluative criteria for evaluating states of affairs in the form of the concepts of “welfare” and “freedom”. The course concludes with the presentation of two recent examples of research on the topics of social evaluation that has been undertaken by the teachers. Each session will be a combination of lectures and discussions.

The course is organized as follows:

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
Introduction	Consequentialist Perspectives		Deontological Perspectives		Conclusion: Rights and Policy
Two Dogmas	Well-being and Welfarism	Cost-Benefit Analysis	Freedom	Autonomy	Capability Rights (Martin van Hees) Disputed Property Rights (Matthew Braham)