



DEPARTMENT OF
PHILOSOPHY

COLLOQUIUM SERIES

“Virtue and Vice in Reproduction”

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What kind of a moral choice is it to reproduce? Antinatalists argue that given the serious, avoidable, and non-consensual risks associated with reproduction, the choice to reproduce is (at least) morally dubious. Generally, however, the reproductive ethics literature avoids consideration of the ethics of choosing to reproduce; with some notable exceptions it focuses on the ethics of abortion and how reproductive decision-making should or should not be informed by some set of genetic and/or social and economic facts. I argue that the choice to reproduce is itself ethically significant, and is best approached from a perspective that focuses on the choice’s potential expression of virtue or vice rather than its conformity or lack thereof to action-based rules of rightness (such as that which mandates maximized beneficence). I then propose a way of going about applying a virtue-centred ethics that is informed by neo-Aristotelian naturalism to reproduction, and consider how the virtue-concerned individual would approach the question of whether she will pursue reproduction.

Friday, November 6th, 2015

Room: B146 Loeb Building

Time: 11:30 am