"Justice and Benevolence"

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This paper argues that political philosophers have a tendency to conflate intuitions due to benevolence with intuitions about distributive justice. In particular, I focus on the luck egalitarian concern for those who suffer the consequences of bad brute luck and argue that, on closer inspection, this concern is not about the differential effects of brute luck, as the luck egalitarian seem to think. To support this conclusion, I propose a test to check if one’s intuitive reaction to a specific scenario is due to a sense of justice or to benevolence. I argue that, once we distinguish these two sources of intuitions, we can shed light on certain debates in political philosophy, such as the debate between telic and deontic egalitarians and the one between luck egalitarians and their critics.

Friday, February 1st
Room: 202 Tory
Time: 1:00 p.m.
All are welcome!