This month’s ‘Philosopher in Print’ is Grad Student, Sara Chan. Her article “The Moral Status of Infants and Fetuses: Teleological Potential, Justice and Charity” is available in the June issue of Journal of Philosophy of Life.

Abstract

In this paper, I review accounts of the moral status of infants and fetuses to show that they either fail to establish that infants are properly rights-bearers or fail to explain the grounds of this status. I then develop an account of teleological potential understood with reference to Phillipa Foot’s Natural Norms and argue that it can ground the rights-bearing status of infants and fetuses while avoiding the typical objections to potentiality-based accounts. I then incorporate this into a two-fold account of moral status directed at concerns of justice and charity, and grounded in sophisticated cognitive capacities and sentience respectively, which allows one to maintain that fetuses possess rights-bearing status alongside the intuition that infants are due more moral consideration. Finally, I consider potential objections based on concerns about women’s autonomy and implications about the severely cognitively disabled.

Full article found here

Get to know our Philosophers!

[Corey Dethier]

1. Favorite album? A great question! It changes all the time, but Highway 61 Revisited and Led Zeppelin I are both great candidates. For something more recent, I really like In Rainbows. But the main thing I’ve been listening to recently is The Shepherd’s Dog.
2. If you were an ice cream flavor what would you be? Pistachio. The best of the nutty flavors.
3. Early bird, or night owl? Very much an early bird.
4. If you could be any animal, which would you be? I like being a human, to be honest. Not many other animals get to spend their time on philosophy. But if I had to be something different, probably some sort of corvid. Most people seem to find crows annoying, but I love them.
5. Favorite place in the world? The White Mountains in New Hampshire. Great hiking and swimming with incredible views and not too touristy unless you try to drive up Washington or are there for a three-day weekend.

philosophy.nd.edu/ for an up-to-date listing
News and Announcements

- Happy Graduate Student Appreciation Week!
  September 30-October 6th is Grad Appreciation Week around the University. Visit gradlife.nd.edu for a list of all the specials and events going on all week. And don’t forget to use the hashtags #thanksbetograds and #humanities for everything you post on Facebook and Twitter!

- Wondering what to do in South Bend?
  find.nd.edu is a great resource for living around Notre Dame. From entertainment to housing to personal care, it has it all!

- Placement News
  Check out the full list of recent placements here.

- Philosophy Phone Wallets!!!
  Only $1 for brand new ND Philosophy phone wallets! Stop by the office to get yours!

- Do you have any suggestions for our newsletter or have news that you want featured? Fill out this questionnaire to tell us!

Events

- **Grad Student Appreciation Week!**
  September 30-October 6th
  gradlife.nd.edu

- **Notre Dame vs. Bowling Green**
  3:30 pm
  gameday.nd.edu

- **Notre Dame vs. USC**
  7:30 pm
  gameday.nd.edu

- **Mid-term break**
  October 19-27

- **Mid-term grades available**

- **Graduate Student Social**
  4-6 pm
  1050 Jenkins Nanovic Hall

- **Happy Halloween!**

Meme of the Month

GRAD CFP’S

UNDERGRAD CFP’S

Meme Contributor: Fr. Philip Neri