Call for Papers

Moral Complicity

1-2 October 2018, University of Bern, Switzerland

Keynotes: Julia Driver and Robert E. Goodin
Organisers: Andreas Cassee and Anna Goppel
Deadline: 31 March 2018

Complicity is not only an important legal concept, but also a moral concept that is used to criticise an agent for her involvement in another’s wrongdoing. This conference addresses both theoretical questions about how best to conceptualise moral complicity and applied questions about moral complicity in specific real-world contexts.

Theoretical questions to be explored include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Does an accomplice necessarily make a causal contribution to the occurrence of the wrong in question? If so, how exactly should we understand this causal nexus?
- Must an accomplice necessarily intend to participate in wrongdoing? If so, how should participatory intentions be conceptualised?
- What are the knowledge conditions of complicity?
- What factors are relevant for assessing degrees of moral complicity?

Applied contexts contributors might want to address include the following:

- Consumer ethics: Is the notion of consumer complicity helpful for the analysis of individual responsibilities towards those who suffer labour rights violations?
- Political ethics: Where should the line be drawn between the demands of tolerance and the demands of avoiding complicity with agents who hold objectionable political views?
- The ethics of immigration: Who, if anyone, is complicit in the deaths of migrants in the Mediterranean?

If you are interested in presenting a paper at the conference, please send an anonymised abstract of no more than 500 words, as well as your contact information in a separate file, to andreas.cassee@philo.unibe.ch by 31 March 2018. Invitations will be issued by 30 May. Speakers’ travel and accommodation costs will be covered. Due to budgetary restrictions, we unfortunately cannot pay for intercontinental flights.