

CHAPTER 45

PHILOSOPHY

Doctoral Theses

01. DUMAI (Veino Jeremiah Amai)
Rights, Capabilities and Well-Being in a Theory of Justice.
Supervisor : Dr. Shashi Motilal
Th23476

Abstract
(Not Verified)

The inquiry in this dissertation is to understand the different ideas of justice being advanced at different periods of time, and also to understand how different theories and ideas of justice incorporate rights, happiness or functioning capabilities in order to establish a stable society where well-being prevails. The dissertation further examines if a particular theory is indeed adequate to answer the different concerns of justice. Certain theories of justice advance a rights based argument for justice to prevail; while others take a different approach and advance a distributive pattern whereby happiness or functioning capabilities would be the parameter to determine whether justice prevails or not. However, in the discourse on justice both rights and functioning capability are significant, and both have to be taken into account for well-being or flourishing to prevail.

Contents

1. Justice in ancient Greek philosophy 2. Justice as maximizing utility 3. Contractarian approach to justice 4. Capability approach and well-being freedom 5. Rights and human flourishing 6. Conclusion. References. Bibliography.

02. JAYSWAL (Sipu)
Notion of Justice in Early Buddhism.
Supervisor : Prof. Hari Shankar Prasad
Th23477

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1. Bodhkaleensamajikniyaykasawaroop 2. Palisahitya main netikmuliya 3. Palisahitya main niyaykidarshinikprashtbhumi 4. Palisahitya main adhikarkiawdharna. Upsanghar. Sandharbhgranthsuchi.

03. KAPOOR (Tarang)
Ludwig Wittgenstein's Philosophy and the Debate on Moral Absolutism and Moral Relativism.
Supervisor : Dr. Shashi Motilal
Th 23474

Abstract
(*Verified*)

The beginning of 20 century, under the influence of writings of G.E. Moore and early Wittgenstein, witnessed the advent of linguistic/analytic turn in metaethics. Metaethical theories search for foundation of moral values and therefore they end in narrowly constructed dualisms like, Cognitivism/Non-cognitivism, Moral Absolutism/Moral Relativism, which are based on fact/value dichotomy. The first chapter, "Debates in Metaethics: Influences and Development", discusses David Hume's reflections on ethics, A. J. Ayer's Emotivism, Non-cognitivism of R.M. Hare and C. L. Stevenson, J. L. Mackie's Error theory, G.E. Moore's Non-naturalism and others. The second chapter, "The Debate on Moral Absolutism and Moral Relativism", studies Immanuel Kant's conceptualization of Absolute Moral Principle as well as Absolute Moral Concepts and Gilbert Harman's Moral Relativism and Conventionalism. The chapter argues that while Kant locates the origin of normativity on the value side of the fact/value dichotomy Harman locates it towards the fact side. The third chapter extrapolates early Wittgenstein's views on ethics and argues for a unique variety of Absolutism present in his thought i.e. ethics is absolute in terms of necessity as the limit of our world. Although for early Wittgenstein ethics is ineffable and indescribable but later Wittgenstein's philosophical writings provide the requisite background to argue for the status of normativity. The fourth chapter develops insights into his ethical views through three key parallels; aesthetics/ethics, mathematics/ ethics and religion/ethics. The fifth chapter seeks a later Wittgensteinian Resolution to the debate and argues that his method seeks stability and certainty instead of locating foundations. In the course of our way of living, the natural (factual) and the social (normative) get entangled in an inseparable web and whatever attains normative (prescriptive) authority attains it through use in the context of our shared form of life. Neither Moral Absolutism nor Moral Relativism but *stabilism* explains our moral worldview.

Contents

1. Debates in metaethics: Influences and development 2. The debate on moral absolutism and moral relativism 3. Early Wittgenstein's view on ethics 4. Later Wittgenstein's view on ethics 5. The debate on moral absolutism and moral relativism: Seeking a Wittgensteinian resolution. Bibliography.

04. KIM
Nation and Nationalism: Indian Perspectives with Special Reference to Gandhi and Tagore.
 Supervisors: Dr. BinduPuri
Th 23475

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1. Philosophical origins of nation and nationalism 2. Nationalism; contemporary perspective 3. Indian response 4. Constructions of nationalism: M. K. Gandhi and R. N. Tagore. Conclusion. Bibliography.

05. MOHAPATRA (Silika)
Objects of Occlumency.
 Supervisors: Dr. R. M. Singh
Th 23472

Abstract
(Not Verified)

The title of this research project, Objects of Occlumency, alludes to the idea of a subject-less ontology. The word 'occlumency' could be broken down into two latin roots: *occulto* meaning to conceal or cover and *mens* meaning mind. So, occlumency is used as metaphor to refer for any discourse that screens the engagement with the mind/subject. The direct reference to the word 'objects' in the title is to the rationale of such a philosophy (i.e., Object-Oriented Ontology), while at the same time alluding to objects (things, matter) as such. While the OOO project is to rehabilitate objects, the work reveals that the rehabilitated objects are also subjects, and they must be rehabilitated partly because they are non-anthropomorphic subjects, or in other words they are forms of being. To be is not inert anymore. Being is actant, being is vitality, albeit both human and non-human. This work is a theoretical exploration in a post-human world. Post-humanism is often misunderstood as a refutation or elimination of the human perspectives, while it is in fact not that. If anything, post-humanism invites more participants to proverbially 'speak-up' and claim their spaces. It is therefore a theory that champions 'the pluralization of perspectives

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1. Introduction 2. Weird Objects 3. Ant and the ant-eater 4. The techne object 5. The human object 6. Conclusion. Bibliography. Appendix: Glossary of terms.

06. SHAH (Shriddha)

Concept of Labour: A Semiological Analysis.

Supervisors: Dr. AnuradhaVeeravalli

Th 23473

Abstract
(Verified)

In this thesis the concept of labour is analysed, which has been conspicuous in its absence from the epistemic and metaphysical discourse of Modern Western Philosophy, although the history of Western social-political thought is centred on the concept. I argue that this absence is based on changes in the fundamental epistemic and metaphysical presuppositions of Modern Western civilisation. This thesis articulates labour as a sign of the interaction between the embodied subject and the objective world. This conception of labour, as centered on the body, has been approached from the semiological method of analysis, which is in opposition to the dominant positivist method. The semiological method allows the analysis of the epistemic and metaphysical role of the body, as a medium, in the interaction between the mind and the world. This approach to the understanding of the body is further used to take account of the concepts of habit and custom as centered on it, and these manifesting fundamental modes of being and knowledge. As opposed to the dominant conception of habit and custom, as mechanical repetitions, it is argued that these are relations that fundamentally allow for reflection, and it is the onus of the self to orchestrate the nature and direction of these relations. In the case of labour in particular, which is undertaken by man not just for himself but in relation with other beings, this repetitive cycle of production and reproduction for subsistence and sustenance, also assumes the mediating role between the body and the body politic. The concept of labour is also analysed in its relation with technology, skill, dexterity and gender. Each of these terms in their relations with labour, allow the articulation of fundamental epistemic, metaphysical and social-political implications for human beings and the world they inhabit.

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1. Introduction 2. The semiological method 3. The body 4. Technology, skill and gender 5. Conclusion. Bibliography.

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Aesthetic and Moral Evaluation: A Study of Some Aspects of Visual Art.
 Supervisors: Prof. H. S. Prasad
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