

Dissertation title: What Policies Enhance Global Justice? How Normative Ideals Apply to Real-World Justice Problems

Abstract:

The research question the dissertation sets out to answer is: Which policies should we implement in order to enhance global justice? Following Rawls, I argue that such policies have to be effective, efficient, politically possible, and morally permissible. My focus is on specifying the latter criterion, moral permissibility. To say whether a policy proposal is morally permissible or not, we need to know more about theories of global justice. Via an involvement with current methodological challenges normative theorizing faces (namely abstraction and idealization), I argue that theories of global justice have to be abstract but should not idealize a specific type of assumptions, namely moral assumptions. Not idealizing moral assumptions, in turn, amounts to favoring theories of global justice that build on the responsibility conception of duties, a concept that I introduce and further elaborate on. The second part of the dissertation applies these theoretical findings to real-world justice problems, that is, I use the criteria developed in the theoretical part to assess three specific policy proposals to enhance global justice, namely proposals addressing global health, global tax competition and international migration. The analysis allows us to detect those aspects of the proposals which need further reflection.