

ICS SEMINAR SERIES 2024

On the failure to perceive individual duties towards climate change. A discussion on non-derivative moral ignorance

22 August 2024 | 11:30am - 1:00pm

Room: EA.G.19 Parramatta South Campus

Abstract

Environmental ethics has long been concerned with the task of defining what duties individuals owe with respect to climate change, and why. Only a few scholars have considered that individuals often do not hold correct beliefs about this phenomenon. This seminar discusses the case of those who are aware about the crucial facts of climate change, but ignore the existence of a moral norm that calls them to help mitigating it, thus showing a form of moral ignorance. The existence of climate change moral ignorance is then presented as one of the reasons behind moral disengagement with mitigation, with the aim of proposing a moral appraisal of the morally ignorant subject. One might be tempted to just blame individuals who, despite being informed about the facts of climate change, believe that they can disregard it. Such an approach, however, would be hasty. There might be something other than mere selfishness behind those who disengage with climate change while thinking that they can legitimately do so. Individuals' disengagement might surely arise from lack of values or good will, but it might turn out that there are some features of the climate change issue itself that to some extent generate confusion about individual moral duties.

Biography

Francesca Pongiglione is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University Vita-Salute San Raffaele in Milan, Italy. She is currently working at the intersection between ethics and epistemology. She is also interested in environmental ethics, human rights, individual responsibility in collective actions, and migration. She has also worked on the moral and political thought of Bernard Mandeville, to whom she dedicated several scientific studies. She has recently published the monograph *Human Rights in Contemporary Ethics Debate* (Carocci 2019) as well as articles in the *Handbook of the Philosophy of Climate Change* (Springer 2022), and in the journals *Social Epistemology*, and *Phenomenology and Mind* – among others.

Presenter: Francesca Pongiglione
Discussant: Giulio Pennacchioni
Chair: Daniele Fulvi

NEXT SEMINAR:
29 AUGUST