FIL 4300 – høst 2023 – Forgiveness – Christel Fricke

Topic

Human agents can inflict harm on other sentient beings. The first to suffer harm from an agent's moral wrongdoing are those directly – and negatively – affected by it, that is, her or his victims. But the victims are not the only ones to suffer from the consequences of wrongdoing; third parties and even the wrongdoer her- or himself may be affected in their respective ways. Thus, after an agent has done wrong and victimized other persons, the victims are not the only ones who have a reason to blame her or him.

Forgiveness is a response to moral wrongdoing and a way to follow up on moral blame. Its function may be that of putting an end to the conflict initiated by the moral wrongdoer – by healing the moral wounds the wrongdoer inflicted on others. The question is how we should understand the nature and normative constraints of forgiveness if we want to defend the claim that forgiveness can indeed provide healing for moral wounds. It may be the case that forgiveness is a task for victims, third parties and even the respective wrongdoers themselves and that it takes different shapes, depending on who it is who forgives. If so, we need a modular account of forgiveness.

We shall start with a brief account of the distinction between misfortunes and injustices and an inquiry into the phenomenology of moral wounds. We shall then read and discuss various proposals for how to understand the nature, function, and normative constraints of forgiveness.

Those who consider taking this course might read the overview article on 'forgiveness' in the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*: https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/forgiveness/ The readings for the course should be available through the Leganto page. Otherwise, you will find them through the electronic catalogue of the main library. As it stands, the reading list is very long. I shall provide a detailed course program with the a selection of the particular texts we shall discuss in class at a later stage.

The course will be taught in English. All the course readings are in English. For getting the study points, students are requested to attend the seminar meetings on a regular basis (they should not miss more than three meetings without excuse). Furthermore, they will have to write a semester paper (semesteroppgave) on a topic related to the course. They may write this paper either in English or in Norwegian.

Reading list

Cuoto, Alexandra (2016) 'Reactive Attitudes, Forgiveness, and the Second-Person Standpoint.' *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 19, 1309 – 1323.

Allais, Lucy (2008) 'Wiping the Slate Clean: The Heart of Forgiveness.' *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 36/1, 33 – 68.

Allais, Lucy (2009) 'Elective Forgiveness.' *International Journal of Philosophical Studies* 21/5, 637 – 653.

Butler, Joseph Bishop (1827/ 2005) *Fifteen Sermons Preached at the Rolls Chapel*. Published by Hilliard and Brown, Boston: Hilliard, Gray, Little, Wilkins. Transcribed by LeRoy Dagg, 2002. Reproduced with permission of the Bishop Payne Library, Virginia Theological Seminary, 2005. Project Canterbury.

Card, Claudia (2004) 'The Atrocity Paradigm Revisited.' *Hypataia* 19/4, 210 – 20.

Chappell, Timothy (2011) 'On the very idea of criteria for personhood.' *The Southern Journal of Philosophy* 49/1, 1 – 27.

Corlett, J. A. (2006) 'Forgiveness, apology, and retributive punishment.', *American Philosophical Quarterly* 43/1, pp. 25 – 42.

Edlich, Alexander (2021) 'What about the Victim? Neglected Dimensions of the Standing to Blame.' *Journal of Ethics* 26, 209 – 228.

Gamlund, Espen (2009) 'Supererogatory Forgiveness.' *Inquiry* 53/6, 540 – 564.

Govier, Trudy (2002) *Forgiveness and Revenge.* London and New York: Routledge.

Griswold, Charles (2007) *Forgiveness. A Philosophical Exploration.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Hampton, Jean (1988) 'Forgiveness, resentment, and hatred.' In: Murphy, Jeffrey G. and Hampton, Jean (1988) *Forgiveness and Mercy.* Cambridge: CUP, Chapter 2.

Hieronymi, Pamela (2001) 'Articulatingan Uncompromising Forgiveness.' *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* LXII/3, 529 – 555.

Holmgren, Margaret (1998) 'Self-Forgiveness and Responsible Moral Agency.' *The Journal of Value Inquiry* 32, 75 – 91.

Holmgren, Margaret R. (2012) *Forgiveness and Retribution. Responding to Wrongdoing.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Kolnai, Aurel (1973) 'Forgiveness.' *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* 74, 91 – 106.

Lacey, Nicola and Pickard, Hanna (2015) 'To Blame or to Forgive? Reconciling Punishment and Forgiveness in Criminal Justice.' *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies* 35/4, 665 – 696.

Fritz, K.G., and D. Miller (2022) 'Hypocrisy and the standing to blame.' *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 99/1, 118–139.

Murphy, Jeffrey (1988) 'Forgiveness and Resentment.' In: Murphy, Jeffrey G. and Hampton, Jean (1988) *Forgiveness and Mercy.* Cambridge: CUP, Chapter 1.

Murphy, Jeffrey G. and Hampton, Jean (1988) *Forgiveness and Mercy.* Cambridge: CUP.

Murphy, Jeffrey (2005) *Getting Even: Forgiveness and its Limits.* OUP.

Norlock, Kathryn (2009) *Forgiveness from a Feminist Perspective.* Lanham et al: Lexington Books.

Novitz, D (1988) 'Forgiveness and Self-Respect.' *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 58, 299 – 315.

Priest, M. (2016) 'Blame after forgiveness.' *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 19/3, 619–633.

Quinn, Carol (2004) 'On the Virtue of Not Forgiving: When Withholding Forgiveness is Morally Praiseworthy.' *International Journal of Applied Philosophy* 18/2, 2019 – 29.

Richards, N. (1988) 'Forgiveness.' *Ethics*, 99, pp. 77–97.

Roberts, Robert C. (1995) 'Forgiveness.' *American Philosophical Quaterly* 32/4: 289 – 306.

Schimmell, Solomon (2002) *Wounds Not Healed by Time: The Power of Repentance and Forgiveness.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Seim, Maria (2019) 'The Standing to Blame and Meddling.' *Theorema* XXXVIII/2, 7 – 26.

Struthers, C. Ward and Joshua Guilfoyle, Careen Khoury, Elizabeth von Monsjou, Joni Sasaki, Curtis Phills, Rebecca Young, Zdravko Marjanovic (2017) 'What Victims Say And How They Say It Matters.' In: Norlock, Kathryn (ed) *The Moral Psychology of Forgiveness.* London/ New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 12 – 37.

Walker, Margaret Urban (2006) *Moral Repair. Reconstructing Moral Relations after Wrongdoing.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Walker, Margaret Urban (2007, 2nd) *Moral Understandings: A Feminist Study in Ethics.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Walker, Margaret Urban (2013) 'Moral Vulnerability and the Task of Reparations.' In: Mackenzie, Catriona, Rogers, Wendy and Dodds, Susan (eds) *Vulnerability: New Essays in Ethics and Feminist Philosophy.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Walker, Margaret Urban (2013) 'Third Parties and the Social Scaffolding of Forgiveness.' *Journal of Religious Ethics* 41/3, 495-512.

Warmke, Brandon (2016) 'The Normative Significance of Forgiveness.' *Australian Journal of Philosophy* 94/4, 687 – 703.

Warmke, Brandon, Nelkin, Dana Kay, McKenna, Michael (eds) (2021) *Forgiveness and its Moral Dimensions.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Wiinikka-Lydon, Joseph (2020) ' "A Distress Cannot be Forgotten": Imagination, Injury, and Moral Vulnerability.' *Philosophy Today* 64/3, 637 – 650.

Zaibert, Leo (2009) 'The Paradox of Forgiveness.' *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 6: 365 – 393.