

Pat McDevitt 01/09/13

Abstracts for Polish-Scottish Philosophy Conference and Workshop 2013

Workshop - Dispelling some myths about perfectionism:

The political perfectionist believes that the state should structure social institutions and adopt policies in ways which promote the flourishing of its citizens. Traditionally this position has been tarred with two assumptions, namely that it is paternalistic and inegalitarian. In this paper I shall clarify the nature of perfectionism - paying special attention to how we should understand the notion of human flourishing - before distinguishing between two forms of perfectionism, and discussing how those two positions might respond to the charges made above. I will argue that neither form is necessarily committed to paternalism or inegalitarianism.