Collective Responsibility for the Future

Quinn Building, Belfield

University College Dublin

15-16 June 2015

Jointly organised by the School of Politics and International Relations, University College Dublin and the Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics, Georgia State University

Collective Responsibility for the Future: Conference outline

Collectives sometimes unjustly harm people, either intentionally or by accident. Scholars and laypersons increasingly discuss whether and how they can be considered responsible for these wrongs, and what, if anything, those collectives should then do. Some have suggested various forms of reparations, commemoration, or memorialization. However, the most important lesson to be learned from any instance of historic injustice should be preventing such things from happening again. Since collectives are in a position to cause great harms, and may have significant resources, they may have prospective responsibilities to invest in moral, political, and social safeguards against injustice.

Responsibility as such is a complex issue. It is difficult to identify clearly the relevant criteria for causal and moral responsibility (backwards-looking responsibility) and any rectificatory duties that follow from this. It is no easier to determine who has prospective responsibilities with regard to any particular issue, and under which circumstances. Finally, we also need to determine the relevant justifications for allocating remedial responsibility for addressing problems that concern society, irrespective of who or what had been their cause.

Discussing these questions in the context of collectives rather than individuals adds a further layer of complexity. To what extent either of these can be conceived in collective terms is a matter of debate. Even if this were agreed, it remains to be considered upon which collectives such responsibilities fall and how responsibilities are distributed between collectives and individuals.

This conference will be a forum for presenting recent scholarship on whether, why, how, and what kinds of responsibilities collectives might have with regard to the future.

The conference is made possible by support from UCD College of Human Sciences, Georgia State University, UCD Research Seed Funding Scheme 2015, and UCD School of Politics and International Relations.

Organisers: Iseult Honohan and Alexa Zellentin, SPIRe UCD and Andrew Cohen, GSU

Conference assistants: Orla Ní Cheallacháin, Yvonne Campbell, Tarcisio Amorim, Wei Zheng.

Location: Quinn Building, UCD Belfield.
This is no. 49 on this map
https://www.ucd.ie/maps/UCD_Map_2014.pdf

All sessions will take place in the Quinn Building, UCD, Rooms Q005 and Q006.

Keynote sessions are in Q 005

Concurrent sessions (a) will be held in Q 005, and concurrent sessions (b) in Q 006.

Programme

All sessions will take place in the Quinn Building, UCD, Rooms Q005 and Q006. Keynote sessions are in Q 005. Concurrent sessions (a) will be held in Q 005, and concurrent sessions (b) in Q 006.

Monday 15 June

10.00   *Registration/coffee (outside conference rooms)*

10.25 – 10.30   Opening remarks and introduction (Q005)
Iseult Honohan, SPIRe, UCD
Professor Colin Scott, Principal of UCD College of Human Sciences

10.30-12.00   Keynote presentation

Speaker: Philip Pettit (Princeton University/Australian National University)
Rethinking responsibility
Chair: Andrew Cohen (Georgia State University)

12.05 -13.25   Concurrent Sessions 1

a) Peter Stone (Trinity College Dublin)
      Responsibility and group agency
Saba Bazargan (University of California San Diego)
      Collective responsibility as outsourced agency

b) Toni Erskine (University of New South Wales)
      Informal associations, joint purposive action and shared responsibility: the case of 'coalitions of the willing' and the responsibility to protect
John Hasnas (Georgetown)
      Should corporations have the right to vote? A paradox in the theory of corporate moral agency

13.30 -14.30   Lunch (served outside seminar rooms)

14.35 - 15.55   Concurrent Sessions 2

a)Allard Tamminga and Hein Duijf (Universities of Groningen/Utrecht)
      Collective obligations, group plans and individual actions
Avia Pasternak and Emily McTernan (University College London)
      Rioting and civil disobedience: a collective action analysis

b)Eric Godoy (Pratt Institute, New York)
      The limits of collective responsibility
Alexa Zelletin (University College Dublin)
      Collective responsibility, democracy and climate change

15.55 – 16.15   Coffee

16.15 -17.35   **Concurrent Sessions 3**

a)Sara Chant (University of Missouri/Tulane)
>   *Collective responsibility in a Hollywood standoff*

Brandon Byrd (Bowling Green State University)
>   *The mirage of collective responsibility*

b) Stephen Gardiner (University of Washington)
>   *Accepting collective responsibility for the future*

Avigail Ferdman (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) and Jasmina Nedevska (Stockholm University)
>   *Intergenerational community and the idea of freedom*

18.45 Conference Dinner in city centre for those registered for this
Accessible by buses 46A and 145 from Belfield towards city centre, Stillorgan Road Entrance.

Tuesday 16 June

9.00 - 10.20   **Concurrent Sessions 4**

a) Marion Smiley (Brandeis University)
>   *Forward looking responsibility and the prevention of harm*

Maeve McKeown (Goethe University Frankfurt)
>   *Reparation for Caribbean slavery: combining forward-looking and backward-looking responsibilities*

b) Andrew Altman (Georgia State University)
>   *Targeted killing and terrorism: the problem of the distribution of risk*

Isaac Taylor (Oxford University)
>   *National responsibility and counter-terrorism*

10.20-10.40   **Coffee**

10.40 to 12.00   **Concurrent Sessions 5**

a) Anne Schwenkenbecher (Murdoch University)
>   *Collective beneficence: perfect and imperfect duties*

Nahshon Perez (Bar Ilan University)
>   *Classifying collective responsibilities*

b) Bill Wringe (Bilkent University)
>   *Non-agent collectives, forward-looking collective responsibilities, and climate change*

Simo Kyllönen (University of Helsinki)
>   *Whose fault? Whose duty? Climate change and responsibilities of unstructured groups of emitters*

12.05 - 13.25   **Concurrent Sessions 6**

a) Amy Pao (University of Hong Kong)
  Citizen liability for state injustice—the authorization model
Robert Jubb (University of Leicester)
  Responsibility and structural injustice

13.30-14.30   ***Lunch***

14.30 – 16.15   **Concurrent Sessions 7**

a) Stephanie Collins (University of Manchester) and Holly Lawford Smith (Sheffield University)
  Collectives' and individuals' obligations: a parity argument
Elizabeth Kahn (Durham University)
  Towards an account of duties to prevent future injustice

b) Farid Abdel Nour (San Diego State University)
  Realism about agency and collective responsibility for the future
Fabian Schuppert (Queen's University Belfast)
  Systemic risk and collective outcome responsibility
Lai Ma (University College Dublin)
  Collective responsibility in the digital age

16.15 -16.30   ***Coffee***

16.30 – 18.00   **Keynote presentation**

   Speaker: **Simon Caney** (Oxford University)
  The collective duty to resist injustice and to create just institutions
   Chair: Iseult Honohan (University College Dublin)

   Conference concludes

18.00   ***Conference Reception***
   UCD Common Room, Newman Building
    All welcome

Conference participants

Farid Abdel Nour, Political Science, San Diego State University
Andrew Altman, Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics, Georgia State University
Andrew Cohen Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics, Georgia State University
John Baker, Social Justice, UCD
Saba Bazargan, Philosophy, University of California, San Diego
Brandon Byrd, Philosophy, Bowling Green State University
Simon Caney, Politics and International Relations, Oxford University
Annalisa Capellini
Sara Rachel Chant, University of Missouri/Newcomb College Institute, Tulane University
Richard Collins, Law, UCD
Stephanie Collins, Politics, University of Manchester
Maeve Cooke, Philosophy, UCD
Ellen Keane Cope, Law, UCD
Chris Cowley, Philosophy, UCD
Hein Duijf, University of Utrecht
Ashley Engel, Philosophy, UCD
Toni Erskine, International and Political Studies, University of New South Wales
Graham Finlay, Politics and International Relations, UCD
Avigail Ferdman, Public Policy, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Stephen Gardiner, Philosophy, University of Washington
Eric Godoy, Social Science and Cultural Studies, Pratt Institute, New York
John Hasnas, Business, Georgetown University
Jan Christoph Heilinger, Munich Center for Ethics, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich
Iseult Honohan, Politics and International Relations, UCD
Robert Jubb, Politics, University of Leicester
Elizabeth Kahn, Government and International Affairs, University of Durham
Simo Kyllönen, Political and Economic Studies/Social and Moral Philosophy, University of Helsinki
Holly Lawford Smith, Philosophy, Sheffield University
Rebecca MacDonald, Tulane University
Lai Ma, Information and Library Studies, UCD
John Maguire
Cillian McBride, Politics, International Studies and Philosophy, Queen's University Belfast
Maeve McKeown, Justitia Amplificata, Goethe University Frankfurt
Jasmina Nedevska, Political Science, Stockholm University
Selina O'Doherty, Social Ethics Research Group, University of South Wales
Sadhbh O'Neill, Philosophy, University College Dublin
Sze Yi/Amy Pao, Politics and Public Administration, University of Hong Kong
Avia Pasternak, Political Science, University College, London
Nahshon Perez, Political Studies, Bar Ilan University
Philip Pettit, Princeton University/Australian National University/UCollege London
Michelle Phelan
Adina Preda, Politics and Public Administration, University of Limerick
Charles Richardson
Fabian Schuppert, Institute for Collaborative Research in the Humanities, Queen's U.Belfast
Anne Schwenkenbecher, Arts, Murdoch University
Susan Scott
MarionSmiley, Philosophy, Brandeis University
Peter Stone, Political Science, Trinity College Dublin
Allard Tamminga, Philosophy, University of Groningen
Isaac Taylor, Politics and International Relations, Oxford University
Deirdre Troy
Bill Wringe, Philosophy, Bilkent University
Alexa Zellentin, Politics and International Relations, UCD