

Talk

Ethics and Political Philosophy

Should the Consumption of Animal Products Be Banned?

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Wednesday 8th March 2017, 17.15 h,
Room: Miséricorde MIS04 4122

Abstract:

In my presentation, I address the most crucial question that people must deliberate on in relation to how we should treat other animals: whether or not we should eat animal products. This is the topic of my book, *Animal (De)liberation: Should the Consumption of Animal Products Be Banned?*, published by Ubiquity Press in 2016. I argue that a convincing moral theory on this issue must focus on our interest in human health. Tending to this interest demands not only that we adopt 'animalism', an extension of speciesism towards nonhuman animals, but also that we safeguard the integrity of nature. In this light, projects that aim to engineer animals' genetics to reduce their capacities to feel pain and to suffer are morally suspect. The same applies to projects that aim at developing in-vitro flesh, even if its production and use might be the lesser evil in some situations. The upshot is a moral theory, called 'qualified moral veganism', which is accompanied by a political project, the vegan project. I conclude my talk by addressing several charges that have been pressed against vegan diets: that they alienate human beings from nature; that they increase human food security concerns; and that they are nutritionally inadequate.