

Good Jobs & The Future of Work



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Productive Justice

Claim:

In some cases, it is consistent with justice for the state to forcibly assign jobs.



Question 1:

What is the argument for this claim?

Question 2:

Do you agree with it? Why or why not?

Productive Justice: The Impossibility Result

Three Jointly Inconsistent Claims:

1. Justice does not constrain occupational choice.
2. Justice forbids forcibly assigning jobs.
3. Justice requires society to ensure more than mere liberties.

Example:

Taking a job as a contact tracer

- (1) It's not unjust of you to decide to do another job instead.
- (2) It would be unjust for the government to *force* you to become a contact tracer.
- (3) Justice requires society to provide us with protection from the pandemic.

Productive Justice: The Impossibility Result

Three Jointly Inconsistent Claims:

1. **Justice does not constrain occupational choice.**
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Why Not Give Up (1)?

"It is implausible to attribute injustice to ... occupational choices."

It is reasonable to make choices that are permitted by the institutions that shape lives and form expectations.

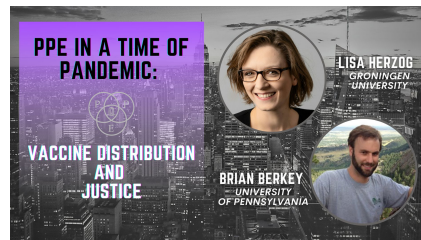
Also, blaming individuals wouldn't accomplish anything.

Productive Justice: The Impossibility Result

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Why Not Give Up (1)?



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The Professional Obligations of Healthcare Workers

The Professional Obligations of Healthcare Workers

Udo Schuklenk argues that healthcare professionals are under no ethical obligation to treat COVID-19 patients.

Question 1:

What is the argument for this claim?

Question 2:

Do you agree with it? Why or why not?



The Professional Obligations of Healthcare Workers

Udo Schuklenk argues that healthcare professionals are under no ethical obligation to treat COVID-19 patients.

Why *might* healthcare professionals have an ethical obligation to treat COVID-19 Patients?

1. Professional Oaths



The Professional Obligations of Healthcare Workers

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Why *might* healthcare professionals have an ethical obligation to treat COVID-19 Patients?

1. Professional Oaths

2. Implied Consent to risk-taking

Neither of these considerations can justify *forcing* healthcare professionals to treat COVID-19.



The Professional Obligations of Healthcare Workers



Udo Schuklenk's central argument:

"If the lack of available PPE for frontline health care professionals would have been due to a natural occurrence, one could argue that doctors should be prepared to accept a certain higher degree of risk, but in the current situation that lack of protective equipment is truly deliberate: it is by human, cost-cutting design."

P1 If the reason healthcare workers cannot perform a job safely is that they've deliberately been deprived of the resources to do so, then they are under no obligation to perform that job.

The Professional Obligations of Healthcare Workers



Udo Schuklenk's central argument:

"There is no reason why doctors and nurses should be seen to be professionally obliged to risk their well-being today, because we chose governments that starved them of the necessary resources to do their job safely."

P2 By electing particular governments, we've deliberately deprived healthcare workers of the resources necessary for them to do their jobs safely.

The Professional Obligations of Healthcare Workers



Udo Schuklenk's central argument:

P1 If the reason healthcare workers cannot perform a job safely is that they've deliberately been deprived of the resources to do so, then they are under no obligation to perform that job.

P2 By electing particular governments, we've deliberately deprived healthcare workers of the resources necessary for them to do their jobs safely.

C By electing particular governments, we've ensured that healthcare workers are under no obligation to perform jobs (like treating COVID-19) when they lack the resources necessary for doing them safely.

Do you agree?

The Professional Obligations of Healthcare Workers



Let's take for granted that **P2** is true.

What about **P1**? Is it true? How could you argue for it?

P1 If the reason healthcare workers cannot perform a job safely is that they've deliberately been deprived of the resources to do so, then they are under no obligation to perform that job.

P2 By electing particular governments, we've deliberately deprived healthcare workers of the resources necessary for them to do their jobs safely.

C By electing particular governments, we've ensured that healthcare workers are under no obligation to perform jobs (like treating COVID-19) when they lack the resources necessary for doing them safely.

What Do You Think?

The Professional Obligations of Healthcare Workers



Udo Schuklenk's conclusion:

"We should be grateful to any health care professional willing to care for COVID-19 patients, in the absence of PPE, but we have no reason to take for granted that there will be one when we need them."

The Professional Obligations of Healthcare Workers



Udo Schuklenk's conclusion:

"We should be grateful to any health care professional willing to care for COVID-19 patients, in the absence of PPE, but we have no reason to take for granted that there will be one when we need them."

Claim: Treating COVID-19 patients is **supererogatory**.

It would be *good* to do it,

It wouldn't be *wrong* to fail to do it

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The Professional Obligations of Healthcare Workers

Udo Schuklenk argues that healthcare professionals are under no **ethical** obligation to treat COVID-19 patients.

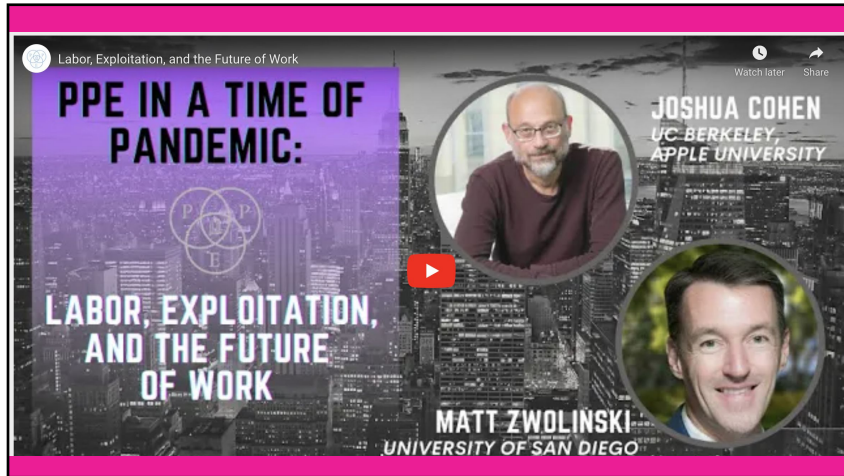


Suppose it's right that healthcare workers have no *professional* obligation to treat COVID-19 patients.

Is it also the case that they have no *ethical* obligation to treat COVID-19 patients?

What Do You Think?

Task: Watch *PPE in a Time of Pandemic: Labor, Exploitation, and the Future of Work*



Good Jobs

Josh Cohen asks “What makes a job a *good* job?”

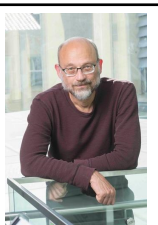


Good Jobs

Josh Cohen asks “What makes a job a *good* job?”

Standard Goods:

1. Compensation
2. Stability
3. Health and safety
4. Growth



These features contribute instrumentally to the quality of life *outside* of work.

What else might make a job a good job?

Good Jobs

Josh Cohen asks “What makes a job a *good* job?”

Standard Goods

Voice

Purpose

Pleasure in the Work Itself



Do you agree that these features can help make a job good?

What qualities do you look for in a job?

Universal Basic Income

UBI: What Is it?

- (a) is not restricted only to those willing to work [*work-tested*]
- (b) is not restricted to only those who fail to derive a sufficient income from other sources [*means-tested*]
- (c) is given irrespective of household situation
- (d) does not vary with place of residence



Next Time: The Future of Work