Im Rahmen der Early Lunch Philosophy trägt am Donnerstag, 02. Dezember 2021, vor:

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(Konstanz)

**The doing-allowing asymmetry**

Is there a morally significant difference between doing harm and ‘merely’ allowing it to occur? For example, is it morally worse to punch Donald’s nose than to allow his nose to be punched by someone else? This question has occupied normative ethicists for a long time, and it still does. (As became clear quite recently during a panel at the recent DG-Phil congress in Erlangen-Nürnberg that inspired this talk.) Here, I aim to pull the discussion into a new direction. I present what I call a transcendental argument for the moral asymmetry between doing and allowing. The argument is transcendental because it concerns the conditions for the possibility of moral communities. My conclusion will be that, given a few general and plausible claims about human nature, the moral asymmetry of doing and allowing is a necessary condition for the existence of any human moral community. If I am right, proponents of the moral symmetry between doing and allowing (typically: consequentialists) argue for something the general acceptance of which would render moral communities impossible. This would be an interesting result.

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