

Why Economists
Should Re-engage
with Political
Philosophy


為什麼我們該擁抱
公共哲學

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Introduction

錢買不到的東西？

- 友情，But why?
- Somehow, the money that would buy the friendship dissolves the good we seek to acquire.
- 這是這篇論文所引入的切入點
- 但除此之外呢？比如說肝臟，市場交易不會改變這個商品的功能。那為何這還會使大眾反感。
- 我們當然阻止不了黑市交易，但對於哲學思考，為什麼我們不讓這件交易合法化很有趣
- 他想探究哪些商品應受市場機制規範 or not



“Morality represents the way we would like the world to work and economics represents how it actually does work.”



Moral Entanglements

Can economics be a value-free science

1. utilitarianism seeks to maximize welfare without regard for its distribution.
2. debates about distributive justice to debates about commodification
3. Sex, surrogate motherhood, military service, babies, university admissions, ballots, citizenship, etc.

Moral

Entanglements

Can economics be a value-free science

- 我們可以從經濟學的角度，我相信大家會認可上述任何一項，只要遵照市場機制，交易都帶給雙方效益。
- 但窮人真的有選擇的自由嗎？
- 以器官為例，社會好像不能把一個快餓死的人逼去賣腎然後再說，又沒人逼他或他也得到他的效益啦之類的吧。
- 這是我們道德上對於這些出於反感的原因。

The Line- Standing Business

- 在美國，大公司安排流浪漢去幫忙排一些法院旁聽、國會開會之類的例子
- It is unfair that wealthy lobbyists can corner the market on Congressional hearings, depriving ordinary citizens of the opportunity to attend.
- 如果在眾議院撥款委員會的前排座位收取1,000美元。許多人會反對，不僅是因為入場費對那些負擔不起的人不公平，而且是因為向公眾收取參加國會聽證會的費用是一種腐敗。
- So, what's the different?

How Markets Leave Their Mark


- Economics assumes that the activity of buying and selling does not diminish the value of the things being bought and sold.
- But, really?
- Everyone knows carbon trading system, how about Refugee Quotas trading system
- It has something to do with the tendency of a market in refugees to change our view of who refugees are and how human should be treated.

Fine VS. fee

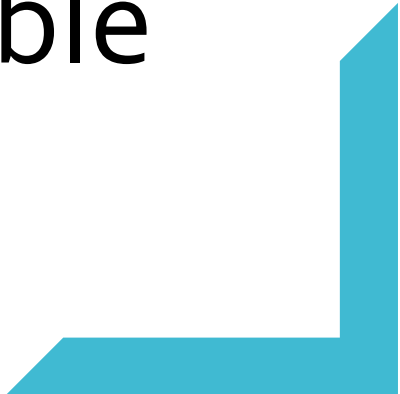
- consider the case of parking spaces reserved for use by the physically disabled.
- 殘障車位的問題
- A. 考慮若亂停殘障車位要被罰1000元
- B. 若不符資格而停殘障車位需收1000元停車費
- 若純論市場機制，A和B應該一樣
- But...

Other examples

- **Tradable Procreation Permits**
- **Paying to Shoot a Walrus**
- **Donation Day**
- **Blood for Sale**



The more economic thinking extends its reach into social and civic life, the more market reasoning becomes inseparable from moral reasoning.



Conclusion

- To decide when to use cash incentives, or tradable permits, or other market mechanisms, economists must go beyond identifying the norms that inform social practices; they must also evaluate those norms.
- If economics is to help us decide where markets serve the public good and where they don't belong, it should relinquish the claim to be a value-neutral science and reconnect with its origins in moral and political philosophy.