



UNIVERSITÄT
BAYREUTH

DYCODE Lecture

“Norms without Plans”

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Can we tell a story about how social norms might emerge among us, without any planning or contract?

In particular, can we tell a story that would explain, not just why we conform to various norms, but why we assume responsibility for conforming? If we can, then we need not think that telling the truth, keeping faith or proving non-violent oblige or bind us only if they can be derived from independent, moral imperatives. The claim in this paper is that we can indeed tell a story of this kind and that, in at least some areas, it is possible to offer a non-debunking genealogy of morals.



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