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The Ethics of Boycotts?

Panel Discussion

Wed June 5 | 5:00 pm | University of Bayreuth | H 18 (NW II)

Panel Abstract

Economic, political, cultural and academic boycotts have a long and varied history. Protesting against the conduct of firms or states, some boycotts have successfully contributed to overcoming grave injustice and ending severe wrongdoing. Other boycotts have gone down in history as morally obnoxious vigilantism if not worse. Going beyond sometimes heated controversy about the adequacy of particular boycotts and their underlying causes, this panel discussion seeks to address some foundational yet underexplored questions about the ethics of boycotts: What exactly are we talking about when talking about boycotts? What, if anything, could in principle justify a boycott? In what sense are boycotts morally problematic? What general questions in ethics and political philosophy does a normative theory of boycotting raise? Is there anything that such a theory could learn from the history of boycotts?

Participants

- Sally Haslanger, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 - Stefan Ouma, University of Bayreuth
- Daniel Schwartz, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
 - Johanna Thoma, University of Bayreuth
- Gabriel Wollner, University of Bayreuth (chair)

Organized by the Department of Philosophy. **All welcome!**