

CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

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Title:

Bodily integrity – meanings & variations

Abstract:

In recent years, the issue of the right to bodily integrity has attracted increasing attention. However, the concept of bodily integrity itself remains ambiguous, even terminologically. These terminological variations appear to reflect the different meanings attributed to the body: as an aspect of personal identity, as an object, and as property.

This paper aims to provide a comprehensive review of the literature on the concept of bodily integrity. The investigation begins with an in-depth analysis of the notion of integrity itself, which can be regarded either objectively or subjectively. Objective integrity is defined as an assessment, while subjective integrity is defined as a feeling of wholeness. These definitions appear to reflect the multifaceted dimensions of the term ‘integer’. The next stage of the analysis examines the concept of the body, considered descriptively and evaluatively. This is followed by an analysis of the conceptual problems stemming from both accounts. The problem of identity (Neurath’s boat undergoing constant reconstruction) is considered from a descriptive perspective and the question of whether it is valuable instrumentally (Nussbaum’s capabilities or interests) or valuable in itself is considered from an evaluative perspective.