



Seminar

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the Philosophy of Public Policy, McGill University, Montréal

Restricting Freedom during Pandemics

Tuesday, 16 February 2021, 2:15 p.m.

Due to the precautions imposed by the current Corona pandemic,
the Thunberg Hall will be closed to the public until further notice.

You are therefore invited to join the seminar via Zoom instead:
<https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/64153691277>

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ABOUT IWAO HIROSE

Iwao Hirose's research areas are normative ethics and political philosophy. More specifically, he works on the formal features of theories of distributive justice. Hirose's books include *Moral Aggregation* (2015) and *Egalitarianism* (2015). He co-edited *Oxford Handbook of Value Theory* (2015) with Jonas Olson and *Weighing and Reasoning* (2015) with Andrew Reisner. Hirose is interested to apply the results of his philosophical analysis to the practical issues arising from public policy. The major output of his interests in public policy is *The Ethics of Health Care Rationing* (2014), which he co-authored with Greg Bognar.

Hirose began his academic career as Donnelly Junior Research Fellow at University College, Oxford and then as Research Fellow at Harvard University. He moved to McGill University in 2007, where he teaches and conducts research as Professor of Philosophy. He has held visiting fellowships and professorships in Australia, Belgium, France, Israel, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. He was awarded the Kitty Newman Memorial Award by the Royal Society of Canada in 2018 and a Tier I Canada Research Chair in 2019. As a Collegium Fellow, Hirose will work on measurement in ethics and a second edition of *The Ethics of Health Care Rationing*.

ABSTRACT

In order to respond to the outbreak of infectious disease, the government implements a range of extraordinary measures and restricts basic individual freedom, e.g., putting the infected persons in quarantine, limiting the freedom of movement, shutting down non-essential business, and so on. Ethically speaking, can such restrictions be justified? I will make two claims. First, in order to answer the question, ethicists are expected to be constrained by what I call the "common ground constraint". Second, some restrictions (e.g., shutting down non-essential business) cannot be justified unless the common ground constraint is violated.