



Multimedia Library Collection:

Grey, William, "Possible Persons and the Problems of Posterity"

Grey, William. "Possible Persons and the Problems of Posterity." *Environmental Values* 5, no. 2 (1996): 161–79. doi:10.3197/096327196776679366 .

The moral status of future persons is problematic. It is often claimed that we should take the interests of the indefinite unborn very seriously, because they have a right to a decent life. It is also claimed (often by the same people) that we should allow unrestricted access to abortion, because the indefinite unborn have no rights. In this paper I argue that these intuitions are not in fact inconsistent. The aim is to provide an account of trans-temporal concern which resolves the prima facie inconsistency between commonly held intuitions about our obligations to future persons. I argue that our intuitions can be reconciled provided that we explicate obligations to the future in terms of impersonal principles subject to retroactive person-affecting constraints. (Source: [The White Horse Press](#))

© 1996, The White Horse Press. Republished with permission.

Download:

PDF: https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/ev_5no.2_greywilliam.pdf

Related links:

- Article on the official website
<http://www.ericademon.co.uk/EV/EV508.html>
- The White Horse Press
<http://www.ericademon.co.uk/>

Websites linked in this text:

- <http://dx.doi.org/10.3197/096327196776679366>
- <http://www.ericademon.co.uk/EV/EV508.html>