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Sun, March 25, 2007

Reproductive technology and parental licensing

Ibn Campusino

The next meeting of the Philosophy Society will be held on Thursday at 7 p.m. in Erin Serracino Inglott Hall. The meeting will be chaired by Dr Anthony Spiteri and Professor William Sweet will speak about Reproductive Technology and Parental Licensing.

The phenomenon of child abuse is worldwide. According to the World Health Organisation, each year approximately 40 million children are subjected to child abuse.

Parenting is an activity that is risky, and many of those who undertake it may well harm their children. One proposed solution to this problem and to reduce the risk of harm to children is to license potential parents, just as we license those who engage in other potentially risky or harmful activities.

In this paper, Professor Sweet will review the arguments, both practical and theoretical, for and against parental licensing, and to arrive at some conclusions on this proposal.

William Sweet is Professor of Philosophy and director of the Centre for Philosophy, Theology and Cultural Traditions at St Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada.

He is president-elect of the Canadian Philosophical Association, a member of the Steering Committee of FISP (the International Federation of Philosophical Societies), secretary general of the World Union of Catholic Philosophical Societies, and editor of the journal Philosophy, Culture and Traditions.

He has lectured worldwide, and has published over 100 articles, primarily in political philosophy and the philosophy of religion. He is also the author or editor of some 30 books, including Idealism and Rights, Religious Belief: The Contemporary Debate, Approaches to Metaphysics, and Volume 6 of the Collected Works of Jacques Maritain (University of Notre Dame Press).

His two most recent books are Religion and the Challenges of Science (Ashgate, 2007, with Richard Feist) and Bernard Bosanquet and the Legacy of British Idealism (University of Toronto Press, 2007).

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