FIL4300 – Ethics, Fall 2024

The Ethics of Influence

A large part of what we humans do in the world is act in ways that *influence* other humans. A large part of the reason we are the way we are and act the way we do is due to the *influence* of other people. Interpersonal influence is thus a concept of central importance to moral inquiry yet, to date, it remains relatively underexplored.

In this course we will chart the landscape of the ethics of influence, by examining morally relevant concepts that can be understood as kinds of influence, such as lying, coercion, manipulation, persuading, advising, nudging, seducing, etc.

We will also be examining concepts that are especially relevant to understand the potential wrong- or right-making features of influence, such as autonomy, rationality, consent, paternalism, and responsibility.

Further, we will examine an aspect of modern society where sorting out the ethics of influence seems especially pressing, namely the domain of *digital influence*, including influence from social media, algorithms and artificial intelligence.

The course will span the range from ethical theory to applied ethics.