

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE
 Department of Philosophy

A Defense of Abortion
 Judith Jarvis Thomson

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Remember?

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graph TD
  ethics --> meta-ethics
  ethics --> normative_ethics[normative ethics]
  ethics --> applied_ethics[applied ethics]
  normative_ethics --> values
  normative_ethics --> obligations
  applied_ethics --> bioethics
  applied_ethics --> medical
  applied_ethics --> animal
  applied_ethics --> environmental
  applied_ethics --> professional
  applied_ethics --> business
  applied_ethics --> research
  applied_ethics --> international
  
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Key ethical questions


- Criteria for special moral status
- Relevance of potentiality
- Maternal v. fetal rights
 - Assuming full right to life
- Distinguish factual claims from value claims

The famous, famous violinist analogy

- Famous fiddler
- You
- Society of Music Lovers
- Unhooking
- Kidnap

is relevantly like...

- Mother
- Fetus
- Rape
- Rapist
- Abortion



The famous, famous violinist analogy

- Unhooking
 - Permissible


therefore...

- Abortion
 - Permissible




Attacking analogies

- Challenge the analogy
 - Is pregnancy relevantly like being hooked up to a famous fiddler?
- Challenge the inference
 - Is it permissible to unhook?



What do I have a right to?



"I am sick unto death, and the only thing that will save my life is the touch of Henry Fonda's cool hand on my fevered brow"

Rights and Duties

Rights

Positive Negative

More analogies

Involuntary - voluntary

Rape Risking pregnancy Trying to conceive


Kidnap Burglars

People seeds

 Samaritans, rights, & obligations




- Splendid Samaritan
- Good Samaritan
- Minimally decent Samaritan
- Samaritan laws

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Philosophy gives the means to speak with apparent authority on all matters, and to make oneself admired by the less learned; while law, medicine and the other sciences bring honor and riches upon their practitioners.

– Rene Descartes, Discourse on Method
