

Shortened Abstract for the Website and Conference Program

Title: Taking Responsibility for Anthropogenic Extinctions: The Ecological State and Interspecies Injustice

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Abstract:

Massive anthropogenic species extinctions are one of the most serious predicaments of our time, closely connected with an existential threat to continued life on Earth. In this paper we look at this problem through the theoretical lens of accounts of justice and consider the role of the state in addressing it. The focus here lies on non-anthropocentric individualist accounts of justice – that is, interspecies justice to nonhuman animals or living beings more broadly. Drawing on such accounts of justice, we particularly pay attention to the interrelated questions of the just distribution of ‘ecological space’ and the resulting demands for reparations for injustices related to anthropogenic species extinctions. The outcome of this is part of a general account of the political morality of an ecological state, that is, an account of the principles that should inform a state committed to planetary justice, more broadly, as well as interspecies justice, more specifically. The upshot of this paper is that anthropogenic extinctions can (and should) be theoretically situated in non-anthropocentric frameworks of justice by being accounted for by distributive and reparative principles of justice. That, in turn, has consequences for the responsibilities held by the ecological state.