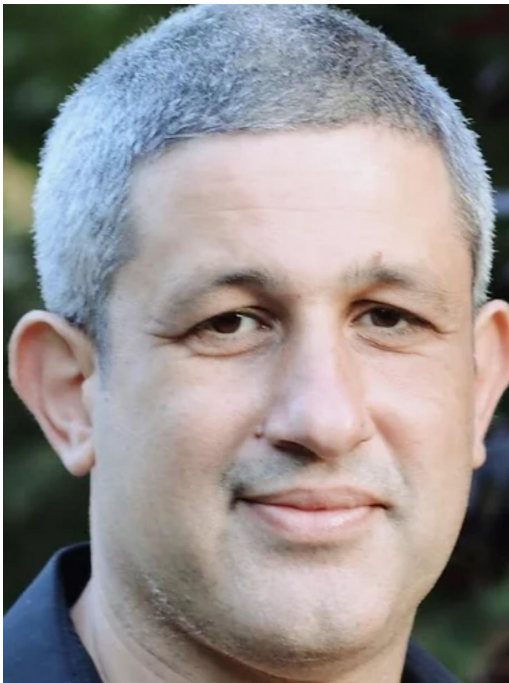


Eli Pitcovski (Tel Hai)

“Explaining Harm”



What determines the degree to which some event harms a subject? According to the counterfactual comparative account, an event is harmful for a subject to the extent that states counterfactually dependent on it are overall intrinsically bad for her. Unlike the causation based account, this view nicely accounts for deprivational harms, including the harm of death. However, I argue, it ultimately fails, since not every intrinsically bad state that is counterfactually dependent on an event contributes to its degree of harm. So while the causation based account is too restrictive, the counterfactual comparative view is not restrictive enough. In light of this, I suggest an alternative, explanation based account of overall harm, according to which the degree to which some event is harmful for a subject is determined by the degree to which (crudely) the states explained by it are overall more intrinsically bad than intrinsically good for her.

Hebrew University of Jerusalem Philosophy Department Seminar

11/1/2022

12:30-14:00 IST

Zoom Link:

<https://huji.zoom.us/j/87079212961?pwd=VjQ1SnVzdDNOVkg1N0g1WGRoeFh5dz09>

Meeting ID: 870 7921 2961

Passcode: 176452