



**UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE**

The Ethics of Philanthropy

Cours semestriel à option
Tous les lundis de 16h00 à 18h00, du 23.09 to 16.12. 2019

Uni Bastions, salle B109

Ouvert aux :

- Étudiants de Bachelor et Master du département de philosophie, Faculté de lettres ;
- Auditeurs libres (public)

Responsable du cours : Anne Laure Bandle, chargée de cours

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N.B. cours dispensé en anglais

Synopsis:

What is the *genus* of philanthropy?

What is it that all philanthropic actions have in common in virtue of which they are philanthropic actions?

Does philanthropy make sense if we assume expected utility theory?

Are we less than perfectly altruistic if we derive pleasure from giving?

Can such a pleasure rationally explain why people give?

Is it always a good thing to attempt to be morally good?

Why are anonymous donations so praised if they do not necessarily do more good?

Do we have an obligation to help the needy?

What does the world's affluent owe, if anything, to the world's poor?

If it is up to you *whether* to donate or not, is it also up to you *where* to donate?

Is the obligation to save life prior to the obligation to promote arts, or higher education?

Do the needy have a right against us to be helped?

To address these questions, we will read and discuss Allen Buchanan, Jon Elster, Frances Kamm, Maimonides, William MacAskill, Theron Pummer, Peter Singer, Larry Temkin, Christine Swanton, Suzan Wolf, among others.

The goal of the course will be to get acquainted with the *aporia*, paradoxes, and thought experiments that are discussed in the new field of research of the ethics of giving.