

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Goals	1
1.2	Organization of Book	6
1.3	Inclusion, Exclusion and a Dilemma	17
1.4	Variabilism as Middle Ground	23
1.5	Variabilism and Abortion	24
1.6	Thinking Things, Persons and Abortion	26
1.7	The New Abortion Debate	30
1.8	Tradeoffs and Abortion	36
1.9	Abortion and the Law	38
1.10	A Middle Ground on Abortion	39
2	The Moral Significance of Merely Possible Persons	41
2.1	Who Matters Morally?	41
2.2	Preliminaries – A Maximizing Account of Loss; the Loss of Never Existing; the Loss of Death; the Otherwise Plausible Permissibility Theory	46
2.3	The Basic Case	58
2.4	Exclusion Alpha	60
2.5	Double Wrongful Life	63
2.6	Addition Plus	64
2.7	Exclusion Beta	70
2.8	Inclusion	74
2.9	Variabilism	76
2.10	The Neutrality Intuition	79
2.11	The Prior Existence View	86
2.12	The Asymmetry	88
2.13	Summing Up	92
3	The Abortion Paradox	93
3.1	Introduction	93
3.2	Pareto Principles	94

3.3	The Concern with Pareto Plus.....	98
3.4	The Abortion Paradox	101
3.5	McMahan's Solution: Order of Presentation	106
3.6	An Alternative Solution: Variabilism.....	108
3.7	Loss, Variabilism and Pareto Plus.....	117
3.8	The Standard Pareto Principle, Pareto Plus and OPPP1	118
4	Three More Arguments Against Early Abortion	121
4.1	Introduction.....	121
4.2	Variabilism and the Timing of the Abortion	121
4.3	The Golden Rule: Hare	125
4.4	Futures of Value: Marquis.....	128
4.5	The Actual Future Principle: Harman	135
4.6	Distinction Between Variabilism and Its Competitors	141
5	Abortion and Variabilism.....	145
5.1	Introduction.....	145
5.2	What Is a Person?.....	145
5.3	When Do Persons Come into Existence?.....	149
5.4	Early Abortion: Three Cases.....	153
5.5	Late Abortion	159
5.6	Middle Ground on Abortion.....	161
5.7	Abortion, Variabilism and the Fourteenth Amendment	162
6	Conclusion	165
Appendix A	Otherwise Plausible Permissibility Theory + Variabilism.....	167
A.1	OPPP1-OPPP4 + Variabilism.....	167
A.2	Extension of Otherwise Plausible Permissibility Theory.....	170
Appendix B	The Nonidentity Problem.....	173
B.1	Variabilism and the Nonidentity Problem	173
B.2	Types of Nonidentity Problems.....	174
B.3	The Can't-Do-Better Problem	174
B.4	The Can't-Expect-Better Problem.....	176
B.6	Conclusion.....	177
Appendix C	Broome's Inconsistency Argument	179
References		183
Index		187

Abortion and the Moral Significance of Merely Possible
Persons

Finding Middle Ground in Hard Cases

Roberts, M.A.

2010, VIII, 190 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-90-481-3791-6