

https://dspace.org/

Keeping our eggs in earth's basket: the anti-natalist case against space colonisation

Visser, Rehan Pieter

2018

https://hdl.handle.net/10539/27121

Visser, Rehan Pieter (2018) 0 Keeping our eggs in earth's basket:|bthe anti-natalist case against space colonisation, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, <http://hdl.handle.net/10539/27121>

Downloaded from a DSpace repository. https://dspace.org/

Abstract

The morality of space colonisation is yet to receive thorough examination from philosophers. I seek to address this deficit by making a case against colonising space. This case rests on a defence of anti-natalism through four arguments (an argument from Immanuel Kant's categorical imperative; David Benatar's axiological asymmetry argument; Benatar's argument from quality of life; and Benatar's misanthropic argument) and an accompanying stance in favour of (non-objectionable) extinction. I respond to challenges and objections against both positions and show that they fail. Because space colonisation, if successful, will likely extend humanity's lifespan, this makes it a morally indefensible activity, insofar as it entails suffering on the part of sentient beings. I consequently argue that space colonisation ought to be prohibited. I recommend that this prohibition take the form of various additions and changes to existing international space law.