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Relational Autonomy and Social Oppression

An analysis of personal autonomy and how it is made impossible by racial oppression.

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Abstract

In this paper, I discuss the relationship between personal autonomy and racial oppression. I argue that personal autonomy, is impossible in contexts of social oppression, because of how personal autonomy comes about. This considers the aspects that play a role in the production of personal autonomy, making personal autonomy an account of relational autonomy. This paper will discuss this theory by looking at how difficult it is for personal autonomy to prevail in particular contexts of social oppression, resulting in an agent's account of their own actions or the decisions they make. To do this, it requires an analysis of assorted topics: why relational autonomy is the best theory of personal autonomy, why social oppression has this effect on personal autonomy and why this theory is important to look at for pragmatic reasons in state, judicial laws, which can be taken as an example of the social contexts this paper speaks about. This will be done by briefly looking at Paul Benson's theories of relational responsibility.