The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in the Repatriation of Refugees
This paper examines the ethical responsibilities of those NGOs that assist in repatriating migrants from countries that do not want them -- in particular, the case of the South Sudanese in Israel. Did NGOs exploit these migrants by using repatriation to appeal to donors? Were NGOs complicit in a government policy that may have been unjust?
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Proving Impoverishment: Child Mortality Rates and the Problem of Moral Recognition
International law has long given us a clear ethical framework for understanding indiscriminate harm to noncombatants, and also for grounding the imperative of protecting vulnerable populations. But economic sanctions that deliberately cause enormous harm to an entire civilian population are likely to elude moral recognition.
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Objectivity and Subjectivity in Theories of Well-being
Last year, a special issue of this journal addressed the concepts of well-being and happiness as they appear in discussions of public policy. This paper defends an objective conception of well-being as happiness in a worthwhile life. Nevertheless, the paper points out problems that face any proposal for a well-being policy. To promote the well-being of its people, the state would impose its own conception of well-being on them and thus violate the principle of impartiality.
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Civic Studies
The emerging field of "Civic Studies" asks “What should we do?” It is thus inevitably about ethics (what is right and good?), about facts (what is actually going on?), about strategies (what would work?), and about the institutions that we co-create. Good strategies may take many forms and use many instruments, but if a strategy addresses the question “What should we do?” then it must guide our own actions – it cannot simply be about what other people ought to do.
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