

When we should coerce each other?

A cosmopolitan account of just institutions

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Abstract: Theories of cosmopolitanism have often been objected as giving no guidance for institutional reforms of ever globalizing world. The question of action guidance ultimately concerns the problem of discharging duties of justice. In this paper I argue that discharging duties at a global level is facing the problem of assurance given that there are no coercive international institutions that would ensure compliance with redistributive principles. As a consequence, low expectations of compliance undermine individual motivation for discharging their duties, irrespective of how much others regarding they may be.

My main claim is that the problem of assurance at a global level makes a special case for duty to establish just institutions. In particular, three claims are made. First, I argue that duty to establish just institutions involves enforcing compliance with duties of justice which raises only if two joint conditions are present at a global level – a need to respect freedom as independence and occurrence of violation of duties of justice. Second, I argue that the relational cosmopolitanism is not consistent with these conditions and accordingly, is not capable of solving the assurance problem. I conclude that the non relational cosmopolitanism is in principle consistent with both conditions and as such can ground duty to establish just institutions. Therefore, the non relational cosmopolitanism can meet the action guidance critique.