

Acts and Omissions: Taking Stock and Future Directions

One-day Workshop in Philosophy



Location

Room 420.2.21 Australian
Catholic University
Melbourne

Level 2 Mary Glowery
Building, 115 Victoria Parade
Melbourne

Date

Saturday 22 September
10.00am – 5.15pm

**The workshop is free to
attend**

Featuring talks by:

- Roger Crisp (ACU / Oxford)
- Stephanie Collins (ACU)
- Seth Lazar (ANU)
- Justin Oakley (Monash)
- Holly Lawford-Smith
(University of Melbourne)

The morality we live by tends to put greater significance on acting rather than omitting to act. Killing ten people in a developing country, for example, is thought to be much worse than failing to donate to a development charity, with the result that ten people die who would not otherwise have done. And often active euthanasia is thought much more problematic than passive. But why should we treat acts and omissions differently, if their results are the same?

The acts and omissions distinction received a great deal of philosophical attention in the 1970s and 80s, but since that time the amount of literature on the topic has decreased. On the face of it, since no consensus has been reached, this seems odd, given the huge significance of the distinction. The aim of this workshop is to take stock of where current thinking on the distinction has reached, and to seek possible future directions for research.

For further information see

<https://tinyurl.com/acts-omissions>

**Or email:
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