

'Liberty, Threats and Ineligibility'

Abstract: Intuitively, threats are inimical to liberty. Yet, it has proven difficult to account for this intuition whilst insisting that obstacles need to render actions physically impossible in order to classify as constraints on freedom. This has led some to also classify as constraints those obstacles that merely render actions ineligible. Extant proposals, however, are unsatisfactory because they operate with a notion of empirical ineligibility that gives rise to numerous difficulties. This paper develops an approach in terms of a notion of normative ineligibility that accounts for the impact of threats, not via a distinctive characterisation of the y -parameter, but rather of the z -parameter, which makes it possible to consider threats as being inimical to freedom whilst retaining an impossibility view regarding the strength of constraints.