

PHILOSOPHY



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

UNJUST ENRICHMENT & THE CONSUMPTION OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS

a philosophy talk by

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Common sense tells us that it is wrong to benefit from wrongdoing committed against others. For example, it seems wrong to enjoy the fruits of slave or sweatshop labor. In this paper, Professor Purves considers the implications of this common-sense observation for the practice of consuming animals. He proposes that consuming animal products is wrong because one thereby benefits from wrongdoing. There are two interesting features of this proposal. First, it entails that consuming animal products is sometimes wrong even when one's purchasing decisions make no difference to animal welfare. Second, it entails that consuming products made from humanely raised animals is sometimes wrong, as long as those animals were wronged by being killed.

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