

10TH ANNUAL FALL ETHICS SYMPOSIUM

The Ethics of Nudges

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How can we help ourselves and others make decisions where things go well for the one deciding, while still respecting the freedom of the decider? Such “nudging” can be a delicate and difficult task, as anyone knows who has tried to parent a teenager or help a friend quit smoking. And ever since the publication of Richard Thaler and Cass Sunstein’s 2008 book *Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth, and Happiness*, the concept of “nudging” - trying to get people to decide what is best for themselves while still respecting their freedom - has been receiving increasing attention in both academic and popular conversations. From the way a school cafeteria arranges the placement of its veggie and desert options, to the way a university arranges incentives for students to graduate, to the way a corporation structures its employee pension contributions, the concept of “nudges” - and the related concepts of manipulation, choice architecture, and “libertarian paternalism” - are hot topics. Is it really possible for individuals to “nudge” one another without manipulation or coercion? Is it really a wise idea for the government to get (or stay) in the business of “nudging” one of its citizens for that citizen’s own good? Come join us for two days of reflection and discussion on these and other ethical questions surrounding “nudges.”

This event is free and open to the general public.

For further information, please contact the
Center for Practical and Professional Ethics:

TEL. 916-278-5011 | E-MAIL: cppe@csus.edu
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November 16, 2015

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Cosumnes River College | Recital Hall

9:00 – 9:15 am: Morning Refreshments

9:15 – 9:30 am: Greetings and Opening Remarks

9:30 – 11:30 am: Session #1: Nudged and Rational

11:30 am – 1:30 pm: Lunch Break

1:30 – 3:30 pm: Session #2: Much Ado About Nudging

3:30 – 4:00 pm: Reception

Guest Speakers:

GERALD DWORKIN, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy (Emeritus), University of California Davis

MOTI GORIN, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Colorado State University

DAN HAYBRON, Professor of Philosophy, St. Louis University

TIMOTHY HOUK, Ph.D Candidate, Department of Philosophy, University of California Davis

November 17, 2015

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sacramento State | Redwood Room, University Union

9:00 – 9:15 am: Morning Refreshments

9:15 – 9:30 am: Greetings and Opening Remarks

9:30 – 11:30 am: Session #3: Keynote Session, Choice Architecture and Lifestyle Infrastructure

11:30 am – 1:30 pm: Lunch Break

1:30 – 3:30 pm: Session #4: Nudge? Nudge? Think. Think.

3:30 – 4:00 pm: Reception

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