



# Moral Theory and the Consequentialism/ Non-Consequentialism Distinction

ISUS 2018 Panel, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), 25 July 2018

## Aim

Consequentialism is a focal point of discussion and a driving force behind developments in normative ethics. But recently, consequentialism has transformed. Some consequentialists have appealed to agent-relative axiologies (and corresponding agent-relative rankings) to model agent-centeredness – typically believed to be the hallmark of non-consequentialism – within a consequentialist framework. This way (known as “consequentializing”), they claim, just *any* moral theory can be converted into a deontically equivalent consequentialist counterpart. At the same time, other consequentialists have reformulated their accounts in terms of (a teleological conception of) *reasons* rather than value or goodness – thus letting go concepts that were once essential to (if not defining of) consequentialism.

Both developments render it possible to conceptualize consequentialism at a more abstract level. But the emergence of this “new wave consequentialism” raises questions for moral theorizing: What good is a very broad, abstract understanding of consequentialism? Does the class of non-consequentialist moral theories become empty? Is “consequentialism vs. non-consequentialism” still a useful distinction? Or are we really after something different? What is the primary concept in terms of which we should classify moral theories – “consequences”, “value”, “reasons”? This panel will address these questions.

## Program

Presentations will be no longer than 25 minutes; there will be at least 20 minutes time for discussion.

---

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 0900-0945 | The Partial Convergence Between Kantianism and Sidgwick’s Utilitarianism<br><i>Annette Dufner</i> |
| 0945-1030 | A Defence of the Consequentialism/Non-Consequentialism Distinction<br><i>Vuko Andrić</i>          |
| 1030-1100 | coffee  |
| 1100-1145 | Consequentializing: Consequentialism’s Strongest Case, or Its Last Gasp?<br><i>Paul Hurley</i>    |
| 1145-1230 | The Structural Appeal of Consequentialism (and How to Resist It)<br><i>Thomas Schmidt</i>         |
| 1230-1400 | lunch   |
| 1400-1445 | The Mere Addition Paradox, Morality De Re, and Consequentialism<br><i>Tim Henning</i>             |

---