香港中文大學
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

CU Medicine
香港中文大學醫學院
Faculty of Medicine
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

35th Anniversary

Bioethics
CUHK Centre for Bioethics
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
香港中文大學生命倫理學中心

CARING FOR PARENTS: A CONTRACTUALIST APPROACH

Date: 24 June 2016 (Friday)

Time: 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Venue: Room 403, Yasumoto International Academic Park (YIA)
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin
(5 mins walk from the University MTR Station)

Registration: https://www.med.cuhk.edu.hk/registration/view.php?id=252580
All are Welcome (Free Admission)

Abstract:

How should adult children respond to the problem of long-term caregiving? Do filial obligations impose strong demands on adult children, so that they have to bear sacrifices indefinitely? Or will the demands of filial obligations allow ample room for adult children to live their own lives? Will they even permit adult children to stop assisting their parents after they have made a moderate amount of sacrifices? In this presentation, I will discuss these questions with reference to Scanlon's doctrines of contractualism. On Scanlon's view, an agent has to justify his actions to those who are affected by them. An action is wrong if its performance would be disallowed by any set of moral principles for the general regulation of behavior that no one could reasonably reject. And whether a moral principle is rejectable depends on a number of factors, including the agent's and the recipient's level of well-being, their entitlement to the resources in question, fairness of the procedure, etc. In short, I will argue that according to contractualism, adult children will have a stringent obligation to provide care to their aging parents.

Speaker: Dr. William Sin

William Sin is an assistant professor at the Education University of Hong Kong, Department of International Education and Lifelong Learning. He obtained his Ph. D. from the University of Reading, UK. His area of research is moral philosophy. He writes on consequentialism, the problem of demandingness, filial obligation and related issues of Chinese philosophy. He has published papers in the Journal of Moral Philosophy, Asian Philosophy, Philosophical Studies, etc.