THE ONLY WAY IS ETHICS

Ethics and ethical tools: what, why and how?

Food Learning Forum

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@foodethicsnews
WHAT?
Several ways of thinking about (food) ethics

- The questions we should ask of our food and of our food systems
- Taking an ‘in the round’ approach, considering others
- Allowing everyone and everything to flourish
1. Argument
2. Consequences
3. Values
Ethical principles

Wellbeing
– we should do good and avoid doing harm
– utilitarian: ‘greatest good for greatest number’
– hard to define what counts, whose interests

Autonomy/ Freedom
– we should support freedom of action, identity of others
– concerned with relationships, such as duties and rights
– what people value about choice

Justice/ Fairness
– we should support fair opportunities and outcomes
– distributional justice hand in hand with ethic of care
– fairness in the processes of making decisions
Trade offs
Bottom lines

Photo by Rob Kemp
WHY?
Ethical debate can unite & inform disparate areas of public debate
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HOW?
What should we do, all things considered?
A shared vision for 2034...

Environmentally sustainable

Humane

Healthy

Fair to people
Aim: maximise +ve impact of a policy proposal ‘in the round’ and avoid the unacceptable
A shared vision for 2034…?
A shared vision for 2034?

EITHER REJECT

[Diagram with axes for Environmentally sustainable, Healthy, Humane, and Fair to people, with X marks indicating rejection points.]
REVISE THE PROPOSAL

Environmentally sustainable

Humane  X  Healthy

Fair to people

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