

Environmental Ethics 2015/16

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Week 3

Objective

This week we are reading an innovative essay from 1972 that has been influential in ecological thinking and environmental activism--Chris Stone's "Should Trees have Standing?" The objective for this week is 1) to identify and understand the philosophical strategies mobilized in Stone's argument and 2) to evaluate the opportunities and challenge of using this approach in current and future efforts to protect the environment.

Readings

Christopher Stone, Should Trees Have Standing?

Questions

1) What is Stone's argument? What philosophical maneuvers, ideas, or strategies does he utilize in the process of constructing his argument? In other words, what does Stone hope to prove, and how does his text accomplish this objective?

2) In your opinion, is Stone's argument philosophically sound and persuasive? What are the advantages of utilizing his approach? What are the possible problems or unintended consequences? Do you think his way of thinking could be an effective means for protecting the rights of natural objects and the environment? Why or Why not?