

Charles University
Faculty of Humanities

Applied Ethics



Ethics of Philanthropy

Annotation of Doctoral Thesis

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ANNOTATION

The increase in private wealth in our cultural circuits has been unprecedented which fosters growth in private philanthropy. Charitable giving has been on a rise throughout the western world, including the Czech Republic, where we can document long-term and steady growth in both the number of charitable gifts as well as in the amount donated. In parallel, on the beneficiary side, there is a stabilized sector of well-established civic organizations covering the standard array of charitable topics. We may state that following 1989, the Czech civic sector has been revived, showing – despite all challenges – most signs of healthy maturing.

In this paper, we attempted to capture the cultural and social context of philanthropy from the point of view of practical philosophy. We examined the rich roots of philanthropy and described the processes of its institutionalization until now. We paid special attention to describing the current situation of philanthropic giving in the Czech Republic. On basis of the above, we debated some of the dilemmatic questions of today's philanthropy, such as selecting the beneficiary and donor decision-making, effectiveness monitoring and impact measurement, fairness of tax breaks, influence of philanthropy on public policy or adequate roles of philanthropy as such.

Our own research in the practical section of this paper verified five hypotheses on philanthropic giving in the Czech Republic.

KEYWORDS

Philanthropy, altruism, charity, gift, giving, decency, morality, ethics, practical philosophy, non-profit organizations, civil society