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edited by

Thomasine Kushner

California Pacific Medical Center, San Francisco

ANTINATALISM, EXTINCTION, AND THE END OF PROCREATIVE SELF-CORRUPTION

Matti Häyry

Aalto University School of Business

Amanda Sukenick

The Exploring Antinatalism Podcast



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Matti Häyry, Amanda Sukenick

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Matti Häyry

Aalto University School of Business

Amanda Sukenick

The Exploring Antinatalism Podcast

Author for correspondence: Matti Häyry, matti.hayry@aalto.fi

Abstract: This Element provides an exploration of antinatalism, the view that assigns a negative value to reproduction. Section 1 traces the history of Western philosophy as a two-and-a-half millennia reaction to antinatalist sentiments. Human life has no obvious meaning and philosophers have been forced to build elaborate theories to invent imaginary purposes. Section 2 analyzes the concept of antinatalism in the light of human extinction. If people stop having children, the species will cease to exist, and this prospect has prompted attempts to find alternatives and excuses. Section 3 outlines a normative view, defending antinatalism both theoretically and practically. If it is wrong to bring about suffering in the absence of redeeming meaning and if it is possible to create meaning only by imposing a pronatalist mentality upon children before they can make up their own minds, parents morally corrupt themselves by procreating. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

This element also has a video abstract: Cambridge.org/EBAN_Hayry_abstract

Keywords: antinatalism, extinction, bioethics, pronatalism, meaning

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