

Promising and Normative Powers

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Abstract: A dominant approach in the literature on promising conceives of our obligation of promise-keeping as the unmediated upshot of the exercise of a normative power to bind ourselves at will. On this approach, each of us has a power to directly create moral reasons through acts of communication. In this talk, I aim to cast doubts on the normative power approach. I will argue that the normative power approach is doomed by its commitment to an implausible form of moral explanation.