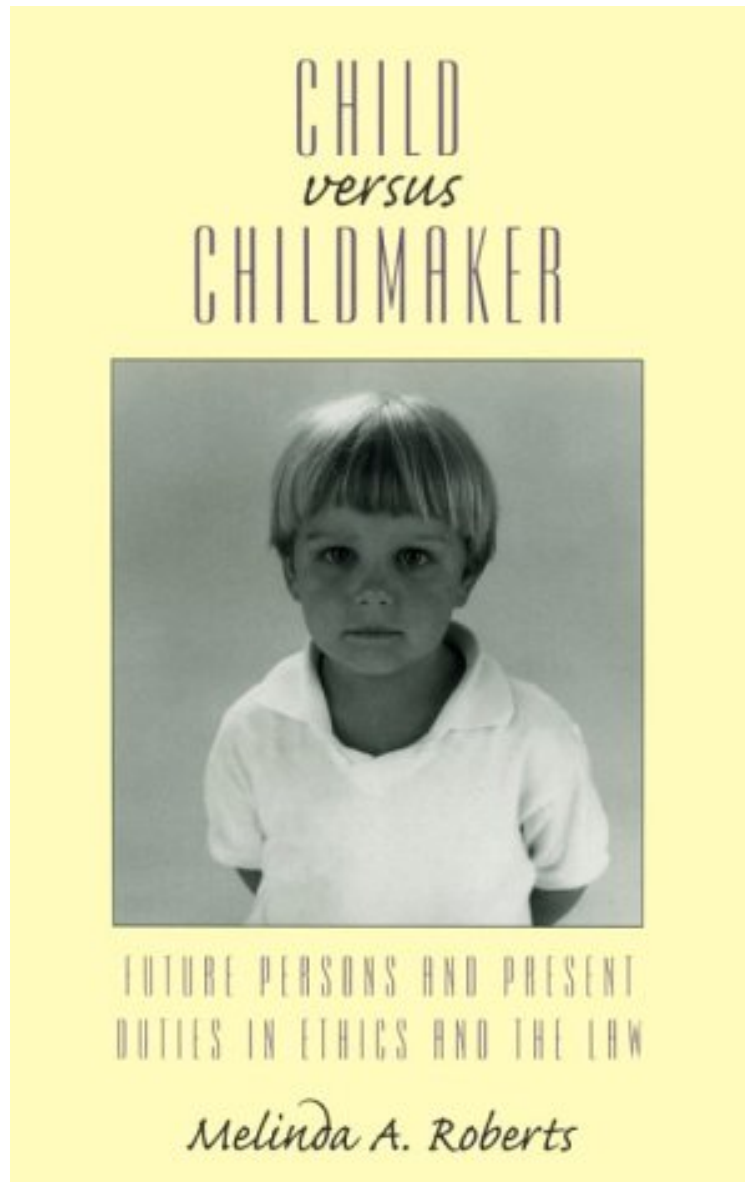


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Child versus Childmaker: Future Persons and Present Duties in Ethics and the Law (Studies in Social, Political, and Legal Philosophy)

Melinda A. Roberts

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2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. An Insightful Look at Person-Affecting Consequentialism By A Customer Author addresses issues of creating future people and conduct toward future people within a perspective sympathetic to the utilitarian foundations of current social policy theory. Presents an alternative to the total utility view that genuinely takes into account individual well-being, by incorporating the "person-affecting" insight. Read this book if you are interested in normative ethical theory and/or issues surrounding new reproductive technologies. 2 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Uninteresting, unoriginal, unworthy of serious study By A Customer This book consists of nothing but jargon-laden rehashing of others' ideas and a few poorly conceived and insignificant accretions to those ideas. The problems and ideas presented here are not inherently difficult to understand; the author engineers problems of understanding for the reader with her stilted prose and her focus on abstract academic theorizing. She forgets that the underlying problems are real ones, facing real people, not merely occasions for her to exhibit that she has read about some esoteric concepts in the academic literature. 3 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Anyone working in population ethics needs to read this. By A Customer This book develops a moral theory that provides a potential background for "wrongful life" suits, and a perspective from which to evaluate new reproductive technologies. The writing is sometimes technical, and non-philosophers may find this book tough going. But from now on, anyone interested in these issues will need to read Roberts.

Child Versus Childmaker investigates a 'person-affecting' approach to ethical choice. A form of consequentialism, this approach is intended to capture the idea that agents ought both do the most good that they can and respect each person as distinct from each other. Focusing on cases in which a conflict of interest arises between 'childmakers'—parents, infertility specialists, embryologists, and others engaged in the task of bringing new people into existence—and the children they aim to create, the author considers what we today owe those who will come into existence tomorrow. Topics addressed include: what the person-affecting intuition is and how it differs from other forms of consequentialism; the consistency of the person-affecting intuition; the non-identity problem; wrongful life; and human cloning and other new reproductive technologies. This book is intended for upper-level undergraduates and graduate students in philosophy, law and economics and for anyone interested in bioethics, population policy, normative theory, children's rights, constitutional privacy, or family law.

This is a fun book to read; sometimes maddening, sometimes puzzling, but fun. The comparing of cases, the application of principles, and the attention Roberts gives to some of the details hold one's attention. (Ethics) Roberts' commitment to a complete explanation of assorted moral arguments makes for thoughtful and complex reading. This book engages those who are searching for an in-depth approach to issues regarding the responsibilities of parents and the rights of children in the face of advancing reproductive technology. (The George Washington Law) About the Author Melinda A. Roberts has doctorates in both law and philosophy and is associate professor of philosophy at the College of New Jersey. She is the author of several articles on ethics and the law.