Abstract

There is a gap in the current instantiations of forgiveness that prevents people who cannot forgive from exploring alternatives beyond the dyad of forgiveness and vengeance. As such, it is imperative to not only recognize the gap, but also to endeavor to create a space whereby those who cannot forgive can assemble alternative responses to harm and wrong-doing. This thesis explores the possibilities of describing such a space of unforgiveness that can become a vector for those who cannot forgive to constitute an alternative to the prevailing injunction to forgive.

Forgiveness is fundamentally a moral concern, which, in turn, has implications for moral education. I focus here on the educational possibilities that could emerge for people who cannot forgive. Such possibilities include the recognition of anger and other so-called negative emotions as legitimate and teachable responses to harm and wrong-doing.

Keywords: forgiveness; unforgiveness; moral emotions; negative emotions; moral education; dissent