

Dr Anne **Schwenkenbecher**

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**Title:** Do group agents resemble psychopaths?

**Abstract:** Many philosophers think that groups can be considered moral agents of sorts, provided they are structured in the right way. Corporations and states are amongst the most common examples for moral group agents. While scholars argue that these kinds of groups can be rational agents, there are very few who think that we can speak in a meaningful way about group agents having emotions. In that regard group agents seem to resemble human psychopaths, who are usually thought to lack important emotional capacities. Where human agents are concerned, the lack of empathy in particular is regularly considered to diminish an agent's moral capacity and responsibility. Nonetheless, we tend to ascribe moral responsibility to group agents such as corporations. Should this discrepancy worry us? Should it encourage us to be more open to arguments about group agents' emotions? Or else, does it undermine the idea of group responsibility?

**Bio:** Dr Anne Schwenkenbecher is Academic Chair of Philosophy at Murdoch University in Western Australia. Before joining Murdoch University in June 2013, she held appointments at The University of Melbourne, the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics (CAPPE) at Australian National University, University of Vienna, and Potsdam University. Her PhD in Philosophy (2009) is from Humboldt University of Berlin. Much of her current research revolves around the ideas of collective agency and morality of groups. She is currently finishing a monograph on collective moral obligations. Further interests include social epistemology and group-based knowledge, environmental philosophy, ethics of political violence and online (h)ac(k)tivism.