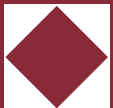
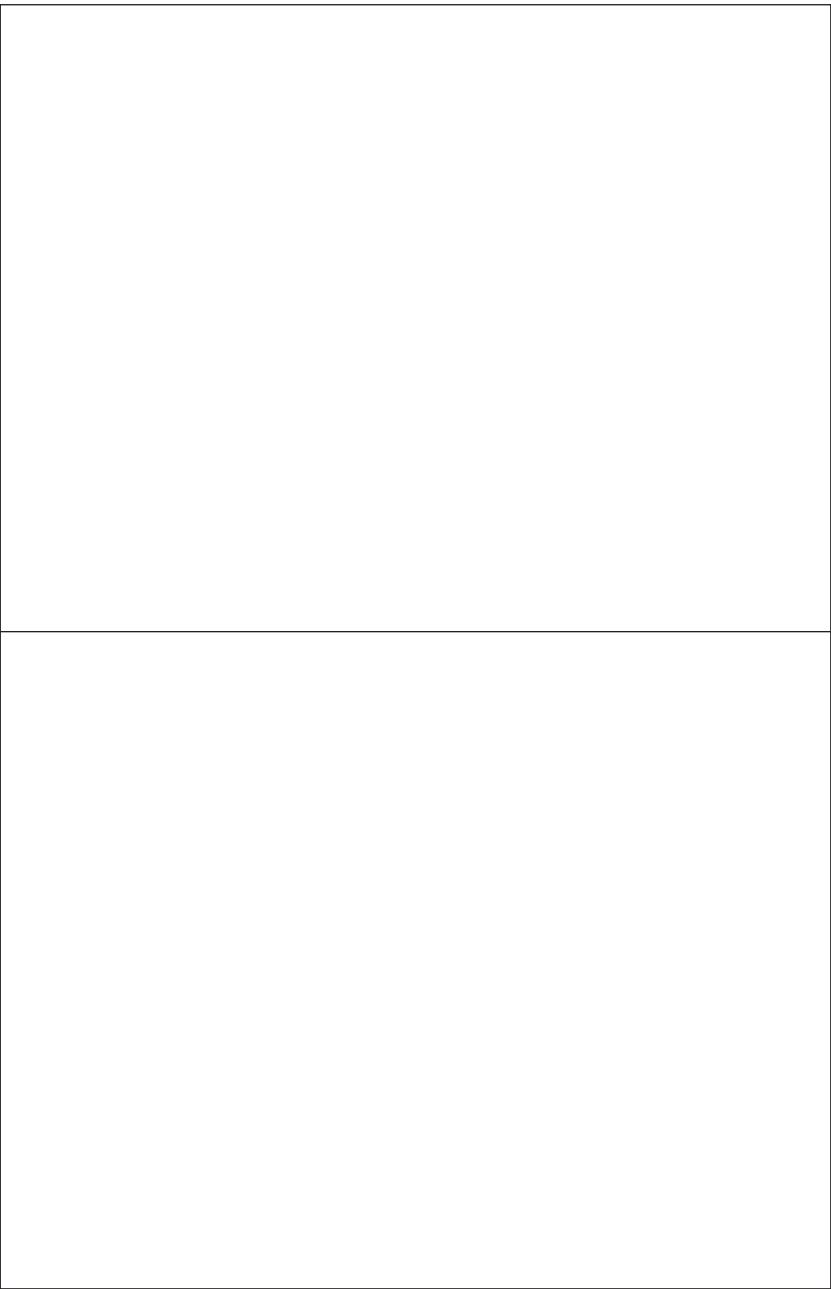


Christoph Krönke

Governmental Paternalism



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The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data are available on the Internet at <http://dnb.d-nb.de>

ISBN 978-3-8487-4111-3 (Print)
 978-3-8452-8420-0 (ePDF)

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-3-8487-4111-3 (Print)
 978-3-8452-8420-0 (ePDF)

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Krönke, Christoph
Governmental Paternalism
Christoph Krönke
106 p.

ISBN 978-3-8487-4111-3 (Print)
 978-3-8452-8420-0 (ePDF)

1st Edition 2018

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Preface

This book is the result of my work as an Early Career Scholar of the international and interdisciplinary *Enhancing Life Project* (ELP), launched by the University of Chicago in collaboration with the Ruhr University Bochum, and supported by a grant from the John Templeton Foundation. The ELP enabled me to conduct independent research on my individual project from October 2015 to December 2016.

The overall aim of the ELP was to comprehensively explore the rich but widely unexamined aspirations of human beings that move persons and communities into the future.¹ 35 scholars from diverse academic backgrounds (Christian theology, religious studies, anthropology, communications and media studies, history, law, medicine, philosophy, political science, social work, and sociology) and from different countries and cultural contexts (including Germany, Iraq, Israel, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and the United States) were supported.² During three joint seminars in Banff, Canada (2015), Berlin, Germany (2016) and Chicago, United States (2017), I had the opportunity to exchange and collaborate with my fellow scholars and focus on our shared concern, i.e. developing the academic field of *Enhancing Life Studies* (ELS).

With my individual project on *Governmental Paternalism* I tried to find an answer to the big question “What is enhancing life?” by asking another question: *Who* should decide what an enhanced life actually is? Is it the government or is it the individual? For a (radical) libertarian, the answer would be simple. The individual gets to decide. If he or she wants to drink, smoke, gamble, it’s up to him or her to do so. But if you are a liberal or hold moderate political views, you would probably say that the government has certain responsibilities with respect to the wellbeing of its citizens.

I would like to thank my mentor *Martin Burgi*, who advised me to apply for the ELP in the first place, and – of course – the entire ELP team, including its Principal Investigators, *Günter Thomas* and *William Schwei-*

1 See <http://enhancinglife.uchicago.edu/about/introduction-the-big-questions> for a detailed project description.

2 Cf. <http://enhancinglife.uchicago.edu/about>.

ker, as well as *Sara Bigger* (Project Director), *Markus Höfner* (Project Coordinator), *Heike Springhart* (Project Consultant) and all my fellow scholars for making everything happen. The ELP has truly enhanced my personal and academic life.

Christoph Krönke

Munich, June 2017