



# Business, Society & Ethics

## Defending Sweatshops



# Trigger Warning

The reading by Chris Meyers (2004) for our next class contains a rather disturbing and graphic example. However, it is essential for understanding his argument. Part of our class discussion will be about why that is.





**EXECUTIVE  
COMPENSATION**



**EMPLOYMENT *at will***



**DISMISSAL WITH  
*just cause***



**FAIRNESS**



Agreement Argument    Desert Argument    Utility Argument



**MUTUAL  
BENEFIT**



**AUTONOMY**



**JOB SECURITY**

REFERENCES ON PENULTIMATE SLIDE





# Distancing Ourselves from Prejudice & Blindness

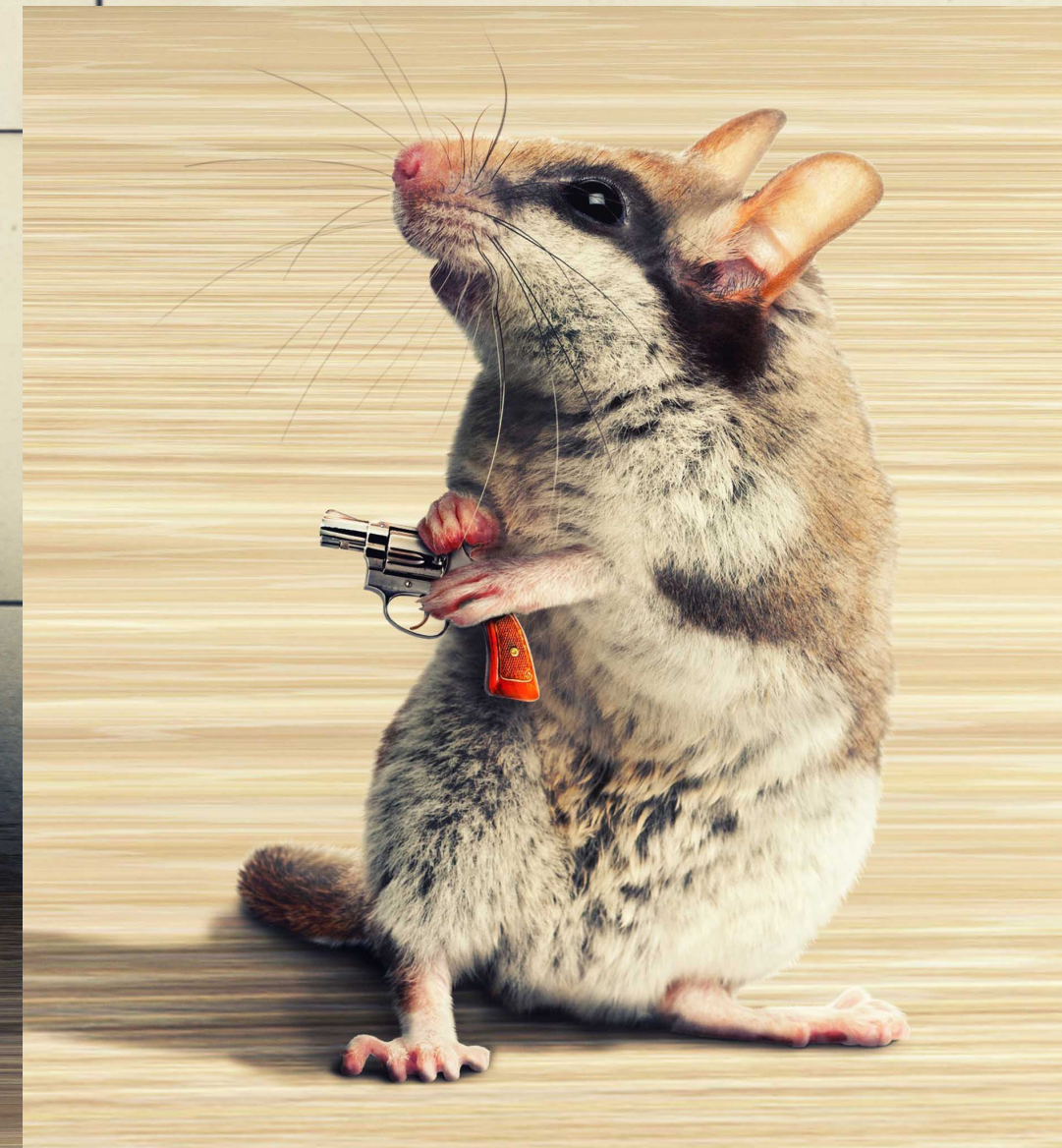


# SWEATSHOPS





# COERCION





# AUTONOMY





# COERCION?



$$y = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{k}{x}\right)^{\frac{1}{x}} = e^k$$

$$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 - \frac{2}{x}\right)^x = e^{-2}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(x-1)(x-4)}{x(x-1)} = \frac{x-4}{x} = \frac{1-4}{1}$$

$$\frac{x-4}{x} = \frac{1-4}{1}$$



# INFORMED CONSENT

Signature:





# Threats



FROM LEFT: AKSHAY69, N.D.; OMELCHENKO, 2011

# Offers





# PROFITABLE OFFERS





# EXPLOITATION





**MARKET-  
CLEARING  
VALUE**





# MUTUAL BENEFIT



A close-up photograph of a green-painted wooden door. A heavy, rusty metal chain is draped across the door, secured by a brass padlock. The door shows signs of wear, with peeling paint and visible wood grain. In the lower right, there are two keyholes in the door. The text "Business is optional" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**Business is**  
*optional*





**MORE SWEATSHOPS PLEASE!**



## **Sweatshops & Insulting Offers**

Chris Meyers (2004) is not impressed with this defense of sweatshops. He argues that even if Ian Maitland's (1997) central claims are correct, sweatshops are still exploitative and morally wrong. Sweatshops may present profitable offers, but they are still insulting to those being asked to accept them.

## **Trigger Warning**

As noted earlier, Meyers uses a rather disturbing and graphic example to illustrate what we will call an “insulting offer”.



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