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The role of unconscious cognition and moral intuitions in the commodification/anti-commodification debate

Should we be able to sell our kidneys or our blood, offer our wombs for rent, buy friends or let other people buy our votes? Elizabeth Anderson (1990; 1995; 2000) and Michael Sandel (1998; 2012), to name just a few, have spent a lot of time and energy arguing against this type of economic transactions which got them the label of ‘anti-commodification theorists’ (Brennan, Jaworski, 2016). In criticising their position though, Brennan and Jaworski identify an important element which the commodification/anti-commodification debate usually overlooks or even fails to address: the role of unconscious cognition, biases and our moral intuitions regarding our attitude towards such transactions. Drawing on the lines of the elements mentioned above, the purpose of my talk will be that of presenting and exploring the framework put forward by Brennan and Jaworski and also of arguing against repugnance as a constraint for market transactions.