

Reading Questions for November 17

These questions cover a reading by Ole Martin Moen called “Is Prostitution Harmful?” The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read more than once to get the answers. Today’s reading covers the start up through page 77 – we’ll look at the rest next class.

*Background:*

In this article Moen argues that prostitution is not harmful. Today we’ll look at some of his arguments, then next class we’ll look at some more of his arguments, then look at some responses to him, and then look at some responses to the responses.

*Questions:*

1. In his first several sections, ending with “Two Views of Sexual Ethics” (pages 73-4), Moen states his thesis and introduces various key terms. What is his thesis? What does he mean by “harm” and “prostitution”? What are the two views of sexual ethics he talks about and why does he talk about them? Do you have any comments or thoughts about anything he says here?
2. In his section “The correlation with psychological problems argument” (page 74) Moen states and criticizes the correlation with psychological problems argument. What is the argument? What are his criticisms? Are his criticisms plausible?
3. In his section “The objectification argument” (page 75-6) Moen states and criticizes the objectification argument. What is the argument? What are his criticisms? Are his criticisms plausible?
4. In his section “The exploitation argument” (page 76) Moen states and criticizes the exploitation argument. What is the argument? What are his criticisms? Are his criticisms plausible?
5. In his section “The male dominance argument argument” (page 76-7) Moen states and criticizes the male dominance argument. What is the argument? What are his criticisms? Are his criticisms plausible?

## References