

Reading Questions for April 22

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. We’re going to continue with this reading on Friday, so you only have to read up through page 76.

*Background:*

We will spend the next three days discussing prostitution. First, we’re going to read an article by Ole Martin Moen which is, to some extent, defending prostitution, then we’ll read two criticisms of his article, one by Scott A Anderson and the other by Rosalind J McDougall, then we’ll read a response to the criticisms by Moen. Today we’re going to start the Moen article.

*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 correlation with danger argument” (page 75) Moen states and criticizes the correlation with danger argument. What is the argument? What are his criticisms? Are his criticisms plausible?
4. 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?

5. 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?