

CIVIL ONTOLOGY

Andreas Beyer Gregersen

A conceptual exploration into the
relation between ethics and politics

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Civil ontology:

A conceptual exploration into
the relation between ethics and politics

PhD-Dissertation

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What is the relation between ethics and politics?

This question is baffling in its reach and is yet clearly relevant to our contemporary society. If ethics is about establishing normative practices, 'taming' normativity, while politics is about developing normative conflicts through an organized space, how do these two connect – if they do so at all?

In this thesis, Andreas Beyer Gregersen reinterprets the concept of civility as a novel interpretation key to the relation between ethics and politics. On this account, civility *is* the dynamic in-between, a third way of being normative characterized by internal conflict, that connects ethics and politics.

Civility is often conceived by theorists as a standard of political ethics, but it is also a contested concept that for others points to questionable norms that can exclude marginalized groups in society and prevent progressive change from happening. Through the development of a new conception of civility, Gregersen shows that the concept can reach further than these discussions and point to the relation between ethics and politics as such. The proposed name for such a far-reaching theoretical interpretation is civil ontology.