

# Paternalism in Friendship

(public lecture)



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Several authors have argued that friendship plays a distinct role in the justification of paternalism. But their accounts face several challenges, and they one-sidedly focus on cases in which friendship allegedly provides reasons in favor of paternalism. In response to these accounts, I present a new Modifying View, according to which relationship-independent reasons determine the (im)permissibility of paternalism in paradigmatic cases, while friendship only affects its moral quality, both positively and negatively. I then turn to borderline cases, in which relationship-independent reasons do not clearly settle questions of permissibility. I show that, in such cases, friendship can tip the balance for and against paternalism, and I specifically highlight the problematic character of ongoing patterns of paternalism in friendship.