

Elaborating Integrative Social Contract Theory: Getting into the Weeds of the Hypernorm of Necessary Social Efficiency

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This paper elaborates Integrative Social Contracts Theory's (Donaldson and Dunfee 1999) hypernorm of necessary social efficiency with specific attention applied to ISCT's conception of "aggregate economic welfare," as an example of a "broad class" of necessary social goods. As I have previously argued (Lucas 2004 (unpublished conference proceeding)), this necessary social good—aggregate economic welfare—arguably provides a normative grounding for ISCT. This work extends and modifies that argument by incorporating Durkheim's conception of the noncontractual elements of a contract, which may only emerge collectively in a society, as a theoretical mechanism (i.e., a hypernorm) against which norms in competing micro-contracts may be evaluated. The work considers the evolution of the cannabis industry, and specifically the community norms in the illicit and licit markets for marijuana, as an example in support of this theoretical extension.