



# ANNUAL HARTNACK LECTURE 2023

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### WELL-BEING AND THE SELF

The best kind of life for one person may be centred on poetry, while another might do best as an athlete. It seems that for something to contribute to someone's well-being, it must *fit* or *suit* who she is. But what makes for a match between a person and a welfare good? A popular idea is that a person must *endorse* something – value or want to take pleasure in it – for it to benefit her. But we should reject this. Some things can make our lives go better even if we don't appreciate their value for us. Drawing on early Romanticism and the *Bildung* tradition, I argue we need to conceive of the self differently when assessing what suits us. Roughly, instead of our values, we should focus on how we can best realize our human powers in harmony with our individual proclivities. This amounts to rejecting subjectivism about well-being while accepting that it is a subject-relative value.

### About the Hartnack lecture

On the occasion of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, the Annual Justus Hartnack Lecture was inaugurated in gratitude to his service, and to help preserve the international outlook that Hartnack gave to the Aarhus Philosophy Department from its beginning. The honour of giving the Annual Hartnack Lecture is given to an internationally recognized and distinguished researcher, who has made outstanding contributions in philosophy.



Friday, 24 November 14:15-16:00

Nobel Auditorium (1482-105)

The lecture is open to all and followed by a reception.

