John Lawless (UNC) “Pain among friends”

There's a strong tradition of thinking that we necessarily have (defeasible) reason to refrain from performing some action if that action will cause someone pain. I argue against this prohibition, first arguing for a minimal conception of pain, one that packs in as little normative baggage ahead of time; second, by showing that on this conception, it is reasonable (and actually not uncommon) for persons to be indifferent to or even attracted to pain; and that in light of this, respectful and friendly relations can allow or even require that we fail to treat the risk that we'll cause pain to others as giving us (even defeasible) reason to refrain from acting.