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Title: **“The „Circumcision Debate“ in Germany in 2012 – an ethical discussion?”**

Panel: Philosophy and Ethics

In June 2012, a District Court in the German town of Cologne decided to sanction the practice of circumcision as an “act of criminal assault” referring to a case of secondary bleeding of a four years old Muslim boy in Cologne whose parents had asked a Muslim medical doctor to circumcise. Throughout the rest of the year 2012, heated political and ethical controversies on this judgment shattered the German public. While, for example, some representatives of medical associations, psychologists and child protection agencies pleaded for passing the Cologne judgment for all Germany, Jewish communities called it an attack on the freedom of faith and prepared themselves for expatriation. In December 2012 the German parliament passed a law saving the general right of circumcision presupposed it is conducted in the first six months of one’s life, under professional medical supervision, and free of pain. In my presentation, I will less concentrate on juridical and political aspects of the so called “Circumcision Debate” but rather on statements of public figures who argued against Circumcision by applying ethical and moral points. I will show what imaginations and interests gleamed behind some of the statements, in certain cases becoming anti-Semitic. I will also show that the debate is yet brewing, in Germany and in Europe in general.