



# Environmental Policy

## - Discussion Questions -

### Ethics and Pollution Permit Markets

Thomas Fellmann

E-mail: fellmann@uni-hohenheim.de

---

SANDEL, M. J. (1997): *It's Immoral to Buy the Right to Pollute*. Editorial article from the New York Times, December, 15, 1997, p.29. *Replies* by SHAVELL, STAVINS, GAINES and MASKIN. Printed in the New York Times, December, 17, 1997. Reprinted in: R. N. Stavins (Ed.): *Economics of the Environment: Selected Readings*. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. W.W. Norton & Company, New York, pp.449–452

1. Why does Sandel believe that emissions trading will undermine the “ethic we should be trying to foster on the environment”?
2. According to Sandel, what responsibilities in regard to the environment would wealthy countries be evading by trading emissions?
3. Why do the respondents to Sandel’s editorial article believe that marketable emission permits are not immoral?