



# Who Needs Needs? Remarks on a Neglected Concept

**Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna**  
**Room 8 – Piazza Martiri della Libertà 33, Pisa**  
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Most normative theories of social justice focus on concepts like "rights," "basic goods," or "capabilities." Almost none of them mention the concept of needs. This is quite puzzling, since the just distribution of rights, goods or capabilities (among others) can be said to serve the satisfaction of specific human needs. The speech aims at exploring the reasons for which the concept of needs has been neglected or put aside and at evaluating the opportunity of re-introducing it into the debate on social justice.