Are We Living on a Lifeboat?
Malthus on Welfare

A man who is born into a world ... if he cannot get subsistence from his parents on whom he has a just demand and if the society does not want his labour, has no claim of right to the smallest portion of food, and, in fact, has no business to be where he is. At nature's mighty feast there is no vacant cover for him. She tells him to be gone, and will quickly execute her own orders, if he does not work upon the compassion of some of her guests. If these guests get up and make room for him, other intruders immediately appear demanding the same favour.

Lifeboat Ethics

Should rich nations help poor nations, according to Hardin?
How do we respond to swimmers wanting to board our boat?

(1) Let all swimmers board (Christian/Marxian)
(2) Admit swimmers until we reach our “margin of safety”
(3) Admit no swimmers.
Discuss in your Groups

Metaphors We Live By

What are the differences between the spaceship and the lifeboat metaphors?
Which features does each highlight?

[facilitators: start the discussion, keep it on track]
[monitors: make sure everyone’s ideas are heard]
[recorders: write down your group answers on the board]
Carrying Capacity

Kinds of Carrying Capacity

**Physical**: lifeboats and elevators.

**Biological**: individuals of some non-human species per acre.

**Socio-economic**: number of humans per acre?
Official Development Aid - 2000

Net ODA in 2000 - as a percentage of GNI

As % of GNI

UN Target 0.7

Average country effort 0.39