

Cosmopolitanism – cultural, moral and political

Advanced Seminar

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Summer Term 2014

Class on Mondays from 16–18 in room M210 (Center for Ethics)

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Office hours: Tue 10–12 (M212)

Since ancient times, the idea that human beings are not only members of one particular city or state but also members of a global community has fascinated many thinkers. Recently, the concept of “cosmopolitanism” (“world citizenship”) has received increased attention in political and moral philosophy as well as in the social sciences. In this seminar we will read contemporary contributions from the thriving debate about cosmopolitanism and the non-cosmopolitan alternatives.

Three main dimensions of cosmopolitanism can be distinguished. First, *cultural* cosmopolitanism as a view about the role of culture in a multicultural global context. Second, cosmopolitanism as the *moral* view that all human beings are – as morally equals – part of a morally relevant global community that places moral demands on everyone’s actions. Third, *political* cosmopolitanism as a view about global justice which spells out consequences of moral cosmopolitanism for global institutional arrangements. The seminar will briefly touch cultural cosmopolitanism but focus on moral and political cosmopolitanism.

Questions to be discussed include: What is the role of culture in the globalised world? How much should we care about global inequality and what should we do about it? How does membership in associations like nations matter with regard to duties of distributive justice? Can special obligations be accommodated within a cosmopolitan framework? Which global institutional arrangements are desirable from a cosmopolitan perspective, and which reforms would hence be demanded? What should a “good citizen of the world” do?

We will read texts by: Kwame A. Appiah, Charles Beitz, Gillian Brock, Joseph Carens, Thomas Pogge, John Rawls, Samuel Scheffler, and Iris M. Young.

To prepare for the seminar, it is helpful to read the introduction by Gillian Brock in her edited volume “Cosmopolitanism versus non-cosmopolitanism. Critiques, defenses, reconceptualizations” (Oxford University Press 2013, pp. 1–35).

Some familiarity with moral theories and theories of justice will be helpful, but is no precondition for attending the class.

A reading list with the texts as PDF files will be available on the course website.

Skill objectives: To become familiar with the contemporary debate about cosmopolitanism and non-cosmopolitan alternatives in moral and political philosophy; to practice one’s abilities to critically engage with a complex topic, to contribute to a discussion and to write an academic paper.

The assessment will be based on a written assignment of about 15 pages.

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Seminar by Dr. Jan-Christoph Heilinger

Mon 4–6 pm (s.t.), M210

[1] Apr 14, 2014

Text: Brock, G. (2013). *Cosmopolitanism vs. Non-Cosmopolitanism*. Oxford, pp. 1–35

Easter Holidays

[2] Apr 28, 2014

Text: Waldron, J. (2000). 'What Is Cosmopolitan?'. *Journal of Political Philosophy* 8(2), pp. 227–43

[3] May 5, 2014

Text: Appiah, A. (2007). *Cosmopolitanism. Ethics in a World of Strangers*. New York, ch. 7f.

[4] May 12, 2014

Text: Rawls, J. (2003). *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement*. Cambridge MA, §§ 2, 4, 12f.

[5] May 19, 2014

Text: Rawls, J. (2002). *Law of Peoples*. Cambridge MA, §§ 1, 3f.

(recommended side reading: Buchanan, A. (2000). 'Rawls's Law of Peoples'. *Ethics* 110(4), pp. 697–721)

[6] May 26, 2014

Text: Scheffler, S. (1999). 'Conceptions of Cosmopolitanism'. *Utilitas* 11(3), pp. 255–76

[7] Jun 2, 2014

Text: Beitz, C. R. (1983). 'Cosmopolitan Ideals and National Sentiment'. *Journal of Philosophy* 80(10), pp. 591–600

Pentecost Holidays

[8] Jun 16, 2014

Text: Pogge, T. (2008). *World Poverty and Human Rights*. Cambridge, ch. 2

[9] Jun 23, 2014

Text: Carens, J. H. (1987). 'Aliens and Citizens: The Case for Open Borders'. *Review of Politics* 49(2), pp. 251–73

[10] Jun 30, 2014

Text: Singer, P. (2010). *The Life You Can Save*. London, ch. 8–10

[11] Jul 7, 2014

Text: Young, I. M. (2011). *Responsibility for Justice*. Oxford, ch. 6