



Centre for the Study of Equality and Multiculturalism

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Research Projects

Writing on the fringe - overlooked texts, student-driven imitation, and rhetorical agency

Christina Matthiesen

The reading and study of text examples, often masterpieces picked by the teacher, is a common activity in the writing class. But what happens if the students choose the text examples? And what happens if we to a higher degree also use more overlooked texts (e.g. digital, vernacular)?

I introduce and examine the concept of student-driven imitation. The concept reinvigorates the classical concept of imitation as described by ancient rhetorician Quintilian. One should not only read many different masterpieces. One should also read individually, that is with awareness towards ones nature - an aspect often not considered in the theory and practice of composition studies. Student-driven imitation unfolds this aspect by presenting pedagogical principles as well as a program aiming at strengthening the rhetorical agency of the individual, including not just developing rhetorical skills (as in the ancient concept of imitation), but also the ability to find or create rhetorical opportunities. The project studies the realization of student-driven imitation in a range of degrees and settings - including work with both undergraduate students and marginalized citizens. The case studies are action research-oriented and investigates the didactic processes as well as the rhetorical writings with regard to invention and style, rhetorical agency, and citizenship.

The project is inspired by the public turn of composition in the US, critical pedagogy, from John Dewey to Ira Shor, and perspectives from political philosophy, particular the views of Amy Gutmann and Chantal Mouffe.

Cancer and Social Inequality

Martin Marchman Andersen

On the basis of medical and sociological data, the project addresses questions of moral responsibility and theories of justice in relation to health. Accumulating evidence is pointing to a number of diseases (such as lung cancer) being associated with particular lifestyle characteristics (such as smoking), where such lifestyles and (therefore) such diseases tend to be more common among the socio-economically worse off. How should we respond to such health inequalities in liberal democracies? When some social (disadvantaged) groups are exposed to a greater risk of getting cancer (lifestyle diseases) than other groups, is it then a consequence of their (free) choices, or of their socio-economic circumstances? Traditionally the answers to such questions - questions of moral responsibility - have been considered relevant for distributive justice, where it is widely believed that differences in social position are just only to the extent that people can be said to be responsible for their situation. The project will investigate to what extent different answers to questions of moral responsibility in health relations are consistent with central principals in the theory of liberal democracy, such as state neutrality and equality of opportunity.

Social Cohesion and Ethnic Diversity: National Values, Local Implications (SOCED)

Kristina Grünenberg, Nils Holtug and Mikaela v. Freiesleben

In Denmark and, more generally, the western world, social cohesion is a key term within current political debates and policy formulations. Thus, local and national policies aiming at the integration of ethnic minorities refer to social cohesion a precondition for social and political stability and peaceful co-existence. SOCED investigates social cohesion in a local urban setting - the Municipality of Copenhagen - characterized by high levels of ethnic diversity. The project focuses on both the conceptual and normative aspects of social cohesion and nationality; civil society practices and their impact on social cohesion; and everyday encounters between ethnic minorities and majorities, including

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perspectives on religion, differences of generation and gender. The project will identify significant barriers to integration and new ways of thinking about mechanisms of exclusion and the promotion of social cohesion in ethnically mixed neighbourhoods.

CESEM's contribution to the project, in particular, focuses on the following research questions:

a) what are the notions of community and nation on which policies to promote social cohesion—and related discourses—draw? This is the object of research in Mikaela v. Freiesleben's ph.d project *Ethnic Diversity and Social Cohesion. A Discourse Analysis of Perceptions of Community*:

Ethnic diversity is increasingly being perceived as undermining the social cohesion of the classic nation state. As a result, discussions currently abound among politicians as well as in the wider public about the correlation between ethnic diversity and social cohesion, and how social cohesion can be strengthened in order to create and sustain a stable society. The aim of this PhD project is to examine implicit and explicit notions of community and nation as they manifest themselves in these public and political debates. The project focuses on debates and legislation in the Danish Parliament, the 'Folketing', and the Municipality of Copenhagen, as well as public debates in the period from the change in government in 2001 to 2010. In addition it will focus on two arenas for these debates; public schools and the labour market in Copenhagen, analysing linguistic constructions behind arguments of the correlation between ethnic diversity and social cohesion and examining how concepts such as social cohesion, nation, community, and citizenship are constructed, used, and maintained.

b) How are these policies and notions perceived (embraced, resisted etc.) amongst ethnic minority and majority individuals and groups within the Municipality of Copenhagen? c) How do the values on which these policies and notions rely relate to core values in liberal democracies, such as equality, liberty and recognition? Read more about the research project [here](#).

RESPECT - For a "Topography" of Tolerance and Equal Respect.

Nils Holtug, Kasper Lippert-Rasmussen, Laura Enna Winther and Sune Læggaard

RESEPECT is a collaborative research project under the European Union's 7th Framework Programme. It includes a comparative study of policies for the distribution of public spaces in culturally diverse societies. The general goals of the project are to elucidate different concepts of tolerance and their links with policies of distribution of public space; and to study the way tolerance inspired policies combine basic democratic commitment to equality, with the aspiration to accommodate cultural diversity. The project is based on the following hypothesis: grounding tolerance on equal respect for persons contributes to development, justification and implementation of spatial policies. The project will advance the state-of-the-art in the field by examining the different conceptions of tolerance historically and contextually. This will be done both in terms of abstract theorizing, linking it with other abstract concepts such as respect, social cohesion, or diversity; and in the way they have been formulated, interpreted, and applied in practical situations, with respect to concerns related to racism, immigration, minority rights, or xenophobia. The project will also address a particular policy area where tolerance is central - the distribution of space policies, of which particular instances will be analyzed in the countries of all participant institutions. Visit the project website [here](#).

History and Ideology in Apartheid South Africa: Learning from Progressive, Intellectual Engagement.

Hans Erik Jakobsgaard Stolten

This historiographical study seeks to reveal the nature and genesis of the racially and socially divided South African society, at the same time as it will expose how leading intellectuals both took part in and tried to change the system of discrimination. The development of social, mental, and ethnic barriers in South Africa throughout the 20th century will be illuminated through analysis of divergent theoretical views on segregation and apartheid. This will include the exploration of a wide range of scholarly contributions on the relation between race, class, and identity. Through a rethinking of the classical conflict between liberal and radical schools of thought inside South African historiography, the project aims to produce new knowledge of the importance of history for politics, public opinion, and responsible agency, partly in the hope that this can further the understanding of those multicultural and politico-economic challenges that continue to confront South Africa and the region.

Several of the mechanisms of exploitation uncovered by the academic debate have parallels to "global apartheid"-issues of today, including new international divisions of labour, trans-border migrant work, and culturally repressive xenophobia.

The research is expected to result in the publication of a volume of approximately 450 pages. For a more comprehensive description of theories used in the project, see www.jakobsgaardstolten.dk | Research Projects.

Circular migration and the impact on developing countries: The quest for policy guidelines that strengthen global equality.

Anne Sofie Westh Olsen

With ongoing changes not only in policy, but also in the flow and trends among migrants, this project will evaluate the actual wins of circular migration for developing countries. The migration-development-nexus plays a decisive role on the agenda of EU migration policies. Several factors should therefore be taken into consideration while assessing the impact of return migration on development, but also when elaborating circular migration agreements. The project will offer recommendations for EU policy guidelines toward African countries that facilitate the three R's - Recruitment, Remittances and Return - in order to ensure positive local outcomes. The project will also assess the factors leading to positive circularity and outline the main prerogatives for implementing policies of equality: These are, amongst other, a) the socio-economic conditions in the destination countries, b) the circumstances leading to return, and c) the characteristics of the migrants themselves. Finally, the project will argue that in order to maintain the sustainability of the activities, the question of global equality and development should be a priority in migration policy making.

Public Insurance, Equality and Efficiency

Xavier Landes

The main function of the Welfare State is to redistribute resources from the better off to the worse-off members of society. However, the fact that most of this activity takes place within insurance arrangements has rarely been discussed. This feature matters because insurance is a pooling mechanism devoted to handling a variety of risks by spreading their costs on vast amounts of people. By doing so, it has reduced uncertainty and rendered possible risky activities, especially industrial development. Then, its primary legitimacy lies in efficiency considerations, i.e. its capacity to reduce uncertainty and enable economic development. Consequently, its use as a tool for advancing equality could appear external to its logic. The objective of the research is to discuss the articulation between equality and efficiency, at the core of public insurance, as well as some of its future prospects through four steps. (1) Formalizing the inner morality of early social insurance arrangements (as offered by friendly societies or worker unions) as well as the reasons that led States to implement them. (2) Articulating efficiency and equality within a political philosophy of public insurance since the concrete solidarity embedded within public insurance. (3) Contributing to egalitarian debates, where the idea is recurrent that people should take the responsibility for their past decisions and not be compensated for inequalities that result from them, which could be contested by adopting a public insurance point of view. (4) Discussing the challenges faced by public insurance in a time of economic crisis and rising inequalities: How should we conceive reforms that could be both sustainable and morally acceptable, i.e. that would respect the morality carried by public insurance?

A Perspective on CSR from Moral Philosophy

Claus Strue Frederiksen

This project involves writing an industrial PhD about the relation between philosophical moral theories and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The objective is to investigate and evaluate the participating companies' (Coloplast, Danfoss, and TrygVesta) CSR policies. The objective can be separated into two parts:

1. To carry out an empirical investigation of the participating companies' CSR policies, focusing specifically on the companies' motives and with the aim of comparing these with substantial moral philosophical theories.
2. To use the results from the empirical investigation as point of departure for a normative discussion and evaluation of the moral challenges concerning CSR facing the participating companies.

The final theses will consist of three scientific articles: one will deal with the empirical investigation and two with the normative investigation.

A Normative Assessment of EU's Immigration-Policy: On Liberal Responsibility, Double-Standards, and States of Exception

Martin Lemberg-Pedersen

This project involves a normative assessment of the increased focus on immigration and border-control in the EU. By identifying and comparing historical, sociological and political causes for trends such as reactionary neo-nationalism, liberal-national realism, but also cosmopolitanism, Lemberg-Pedersen attempts to create a perspective from which a liberal-consequentialist discussion of the humanitarian implications of -and responsibility for - immigration policies can take place. This discussion also includes an analysis of the kind of biopolitical status ascribed to refugees and asylum-seekers, qua their rejection by border-patrols or their detention in camps all over Europe; camps which function as geographically situated states of exception to liberal norms. Finally, the project also critically discusses possible tensions between historical developments of liberalism in and from the colonial age and the theory's self-image as requiring universal equality between all people.

Desert, Equality, and Responsibility

Claus Hansen

This project focuses on the relationship between desert, equality, and distributive justice. Many contemporary theorists deny that justice consists in giving people what they deserve. According to one popular anti-desert argument, the ubiquitousness of luck in our life undermines all desert-based claims. According to another influential argument, desert cannot be all there is to distributive justice since principles of distributive justice are essentially comparative whereas desert is a principle of non-comparative justice. Despite the widespread scepticism, neither the notion of desert itself nor its relation to distributive justice, in particular luck-egalitarianism, is well understood. My thesis will investigate what role, if any, desert can play in distributive justice. It will include discussions of the relationship between desert and luck, comparative justice and desert, and the relationship between desert-based theories of justice and luck-egalitarianism.

Discrimination: A Philosophical Enquiry

Kasper Lippert-Rasmussen

The most blatant forms of discrimination are quite obviously morally wrong. However, the nature and boundaries of our concept(s) of discrimination are more controversial, and, accordingly, it is not clear whether all forms of discrimination are morally bad; nor is it clear why morally objectionable cases of discrimination are bad – it is clear in very many cases that a certain form of discrimination is morally wrong, but it is not clear whether the reason why this is so is that it implies inequality of opportunity, that it is disrespectful of those subjected to discrimination, that it involves violations of human rights, that it is harmful to people who are discriminated against etc. This book-length project sets out to address these issues as well as various issues of practical policy, e.g. statistical discrimination, indirect discrimination, affirmative action, and the relationship between law and discrimination.

Equality through differential treatment? Discrimination of ethnic minority children in Danish public schools

Gro Helledatter Jacobsen

Equality of opportunity is a central ideal in the Danish public school. However, educational achievements of ethnic minority children are poor compared to majority children's, even though the Danish state offers several educational initiatives for bilingual children. The aim of this PhD project is to examine the complex relationship between positive and negative discrimination of ethnic minority children in Denmark. The project deals with institutionalized forms of differential treatment such as special language tests, special classes, and special schools with all day teaching, as well as teachers' approaches to ethnic minority children, which will be studied through classroom observations. The normative part of the project will discuss whether such forms of differential treatment are morally unacceptable and evaluate them in light of the ideals of equality of opportunity in the Danish public school as well as in multicultural education.

Inclusiveness as a necessary evil? Recruitment strategies and their implications for the relative inclusiveness of migrant workers

Stine Neerup

During the last decade, there has been a growing understanding of the immediate and future need for non-EU migrant labour in Europe, in order to meet labour market demands in the face of declining birth rates, aging populations and the lack of workers within the EU. The European Union Member States (EU MS) are facing the realisation that they are unable to make do without immigration in the future, if they are to experience significant sustained economic growth. In this setting, the role of rights

granted to immigrants as a part of a national/supranational labour recruitment strategy assumes an increasing significance. Although not obviously connected, these two issues of labour shortage and the granting of rights to migrants become deeply intertwined, as these rights can become a deciding factor in the increasing competition between receiving countries to attract the most highly valued workers. Read more [here](#).

Liberal Multiculturalism and Liberal Culturalism

Morten Ebbe Juul Nielsen

The research project advances two related questions, namely:

- Does Liberal Equality lead to Liberal Multiculturalism and does Liberal Multiculturalism lead to Multilegalism?
- Is there an irresolvable conflict between Liberal Culturalism and Liberal Multiculturalism?

The project involves three main areas of philosophical studies. First, the overall question of liberal equality and multiculturalism. A mainstream trend in liberal thought advances the view that multicultural policies are a natural extension of the ground-level liberal egalitarian commitment to equality. I propose to examine this view internally (i.e., given the premises adopted by liberal egalitarians generally); however, I also wish to examine several related but alternative views about just what justice is and entails. Furthermore, I pose the question 'does liberal multiculturalism (if pursued to its logical conclusions) entail multilegalism?', where *multilegalism* is my term for a situation in which different members of the same political order abides by different legal codes, at least in certain, non-trivial contexts. This touches upon core issues of legal philosophy. Lastly, I ask whether liberal multiculturalism of the aforementioned mainstream kind is in conflict with the cultural setting necessary for a liberal order, or what I understand as liberal culturalism, namely any kind of politics employed partly or wholly, in order to advance, protect, or hinder certain cultural phenomena. The research project includes an empirical analysis of court proceedings and legal material from Danish courts to see whether there is a de facto tendency towards multilegalism.

Normative Models for Multicultural Conflicts of Culture

Sune Lægaard

The project concerns normative models for the regulation of cultural conflicts arising in multicultural societies, with special focus on cases like the Danish 'cartoon controversy'. The models are prominent ways of conceptualizing what is normatively at stake in such cases, such as toleration, freedom of expression, politics of recognition, and secularism. The project considers the theoretical interpretations of cultural conflicts, the normative implications of such models and their moral justifications, as well as their application to the particular issues involved in the cartoon controversy.

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