

Call for Papers

Articulations of Justice Pt. 1: Justice and Liberty

IPSA RC31 (Research Committee on Political Philosophy)
Interim Conference
June 25-27, 2010, Jena, Germany

The modern era is notable for its emphasis on justice as the *idée-clef* of politics. Although always central to political philosophy, justice, in the 20th century, under the prompting of John Rawls, was widely accepted as the primary virtue of social institutions.

Does the moral pluralism of modern societies of itself impose a thin, formal conception of the good society? Does modern pluralism directly preclude some more substantive normative basis for politics? Can political philosophy do no more than identify fair terms of cooperation that accommodate each individual's pursuit of his or her own specific conception of the good life? Is such a formal conception of the good society adequate? Can it motivate moral behavior? Is it too elusive to guide actual decisions?

This broad, modern debate on justice touches on the central problem of articulating justice in such a way as to (a) embrace the fact of modern plurality, without (b) falling into a pit of abstraction and idealism far removed from the concrete, practical contexts to which justice must apply.

The Research Committee on Political Philosophy (RC31) of The *International Political Science Association* will explore possibilities of overcoming this dilemma by relating justice - the central, but rather formal normative concept of modern politics - to the main ideas associated with the creation of modern society, namely (in the language of 1789) liberty, equality, and fraternity – this last being commonly formulated today as 'solidarity' and 'community', and earlier, among the Ancients, as 'friendship' (*philia*, *amicitia*, *agape*, *eros*, etc.).

IPSA RC31 is organizing a cycle of three conferences addressing, in turn, the relation of justice to liberty (2010), to equality (2011), and to fraternity (2012).

We now invite proposals for the first conference of this series. If you wish to present a paper on the relationship of justice and liberty, whether the approach is normative or empirical, analytical or historical, please send an **abstract** of no more than **one page** to Prof. Preston King (pking@morehouse.edu), Chair of RC31, and to the local organizer David Strecker (David.Strecker@uni-jena.de) no later than **March 14, 2010**.