

Agenda, January 31, 2008  
Session 2. The Tasks of Emancipatory Social Science

1. Social justice and flourishing:
  - How should we treat ideological disagreements about social justice? [Julia McReynolds]
  - Is “flourishing” a sufficient criterion for social justice? [Tod Van Gunten]
  - What happens when some individuals or segments of society fail to flourish in a just society? [Wes Markofski]
  - Should social justice be seen as a question of individual rights or is it a property of institutions? [Guillaume Nealt]
  - personal moral obligations and the theory of justice – should radicals give up some means of flourishing to allow others to flourish? [Eduardo Cavieres]
  
2. Democracy and political justice:
  - What is the status of the *radical democracy* component? Is this compatible with Capitalism? [Edo Novat]
  - Is it possible that political justice might contradict social justice? [Julia McReynolds]
  
3. The meaning of “alternative”
  - Changes in specific institutions vs wholesale social system change: won't emancipatory improvements within capitalism always deteriorate unless you move beyond capitalism? [Edo Novat]
  - Do alternatives have to take the form of destroy-and-replace or can there be various ways of combining, modifying, transposing, grafting institutions [Sung Ik Cho]
  
4. Contrast between *achievability & viability*:
  - Should the order of these be reversed? [Edo Novat]
  - Concern about achievability undermining utopian aspirations and generating minimalist compromises. [Charity Schmidt]
  
5. Marx was opposed to a moral critique of capitalism. How should we understand the tension between a scientific and moral critique? [Rudolfo Elbert]
  
6. Conditions/spaces for social change: can strategies be over the conditions themselves? [Molly Noble]
  
7. Scale and scalability: does local transformation have a privileged status given the trial-and-error processes of implementing real utopias? [Catherine Willis]
  
8. Agency: who are the actors to carry out the project? [Eduardo Cavieres]