

The Complexities of Positive Liberty: Freedom and Social Practices in a Non-Ideal World

Tuesday, 3/26/19 3:15pm
ECTR 212



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The language of freedom is ubiquitous in public discourse as a fundamental social & political value. Yet it is also notoriously variable in its meaning, especially as articulated by public officials, and those engaged in struggles centered on its realization. In this lecture I will pursue a particular avenue in the search for a conceptualization of freedom that captures these disparate uses, specifically the “positive” notion that includes more than merely absence of interference but also requires support for effective, socially engaged agency.



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