

Call for Abstracts

**WORKSHOP: Cosmopolitanism and parochialism**

16th September 2019 - Munich Center for Ethics

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

Invited speakers

Prof John D. Cameron - *Dalhousie University* (videoconference)

Prof Ingmar Persson - *Gothenburg University (emeritus) & Oxford University*

Themes of the workshop

The morality of global citizenship has received extensive scholarly attention. Normative concepts such as responsibility, beneficence, democracy and fairness have all been discussed from a cosmopolitan perspective. A similarly diverse and comprehensive body of literature addresses what such normative theories require in practice, from individual actions to schemes of global governance. Many such proposals, however, have remained on paper. According to some, we are rather witnessing a regress, instead of the expansion of global cooperation that some such schemes and theories demand.

The relations between normative ideals and political transformations are complex. Yet the failure of cosmopolitan theory to exert sustained practical influence seems to be due, at least partly, to motivational failures. That is, normative theories of global duties have not been effective motivations for action for individuals who could accomplish change, e.g. citizens of democratic countries and other powerful groups. This may corroborate what skeptics of cosmopolitanism have often argued: human motivational drives such as empathy or a sense of fairness are inescapably parochial, they cannot be extended to anonymous strangers or to groups that are too large. Such motivational aspects of global citizenship have received comparatively less attention, even though they may constitute an important missing link between normative theories and cosmopolitan transformations.

What are the motivational resources that cosmopolitan theories presuppose and what resources can such theories actually mobilize? Which normative theories do better — and worse — in this respect? What roles do sentiments, emotions and volition play? Are there other, non-moral reasons for action that can exert influence in support of cosmopolitan transformations? What can recent regresses teach us about these questions? Are skeptics, after all, right? Are resources such as empathy, sense of fairness, solidarity limited in ways that make them unsuitable for the pursuit of global citizenship? How should cosmopolitans promote the appropriate kinds of motivation and dampen those that are instead detrimental, such as various forms of parochial favoritism?

Organisation: Jan-Christoph Heilingner; Lorenzo Del Savio.

Please submit a 400-word abstract for a 25 min presentation + 20 min Q&A to [lorenzo.delsavio@lmu.de](mailto:lorenzo.delsavio@lmu.de)

Deadline: 26th April 2019. Decision: by 6th May 2019

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