

The University of Hong Kong

香 港 大 學



Department of Politics and Public Administration

Presents

Each to Their Own: Can the Capability Approach be Legitimate and Justified?

In this paper I will address some problems associated with how we select a list of capabilities that are suitable for a conception of justice. Broadly speaking there are two methods for selecting a list of capabilities, a subjective and an objective method. Neither approach seems entirely satisfactory. In this paper I will suggest that we should understand the “selection problem” in terms of the employment of two distinct but related concepts: *justification and legitimacy*. I will present an approach to selecting capabilities that argues that they need to be both legitimate (endorsed) and justified (morally acceptable).

Dr. Jeremy Moss

*Director of the Social Justice Initiative
University of Melbourne*

Dr Jeremy Moss is Director of the Social Justice Initiative at the University of Melbourne. His main research interests are in political philosophy and moral theory. He currently holds an Australian Research Council Future Fellowship to conduct work on ‘Climate Justice’ and is the recipient of the Eureka Prize for Ethics, the Australasia Association of Philosophy Media Prize. Recent publications include: "Egalitarianism and the Value of Equality", *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*, September 2009; ‘Capabilities and Well-being’, *Australian Economic Review*; *Climate Change and Social Justice*, ed., J. Moss, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 2009; "Against Fairness", *Journal of Value Inquiry*, 41, 2007.

Date: April 9, 2013 (Tue)

Time: 4:30 pm

Venue: Room 9.66, The Jockey Club Tower

(Tea & coffee will be served at 4:15 pm)

Enquiry: 3917-2393

email: psdhku@hku.hk

SEMINAR