

Bruce Haddock (Cardiff University):

Multiculturalism and Normative Judgment: A Phenomenological Approach

Abstract

The paper distinguishes between multiculturalism as a fact of life and multiculturalism as a policy, focusing almost exclusively on the former. The claim is that the deep diversity that confronts us in our daily lives obliges us to think in self-consciously normative terms. We ask ourselves how we should respond to practices that trouble us, what the limits of our tolerance might be, when it would be appropriate for public resources to be made available to facilitate minority interests and so on. Practical judgements are unavoidable. The paper argues that they cannot be conceived simply as expressions of value in cultural terms. Underpinning positive judgements is a commitment to effective agency in a broader sense. The context of multicultural politics thus obliges us all to think beyond the terms of reference of particular cultures. Circumstances commit us to endorse a thin universalism that is compatible with deep diversity, with the proviso that cultural positions have to satisfy a critical moral test to warrant our respect.

Prof. Bruce Haddock is Senior Professor of Modern European Social and Political Philosophy at Cardiff University, Wales. He was educated at Leicester University and Wolfson College, Oxford. For many years, he worked at University of Wales, Swansea. He has held visiting appointments at the University of Ferrara, Emory University and Arizona State University.

His research interests range from political philosophy and history of political thought, through modern European federal theory, to contemporary politics and culture in Italy and Romania. In a major collaborative project (based at Cardiff), Haddock explores contrasting modes of justification invoked in normative argument.

Haddock's principal publications include a. o. *The Politics of Italian National Identity* (2000, jointly edited with Gino Bedani), *Multiculturalism, Identity and Rights* (2003, jointly edited with Peter Sutch), *A History of Political Thought: From Antiquity to the Present* (2008), *Principles and Political Order: The Challenge of Diversity* (2006, jointly edited with Peri Roberts and Peter Sutch), *Evil in Contemporary Political Theory* (2011, jointly edited with Peri Roberts and Peter Sutch), in addition to numerous essays and articles in collaborative volumes and journals, including *Political Theory*, *Political Studies*, *History of Political Thought*, *The Historical Journal*, *Journal of the History of Ideas*, *European Journal of Political Theory*, *European Studies Review* and *Social Research*. He is also joint editor of *Collingwood and British Idealism Studies* and associate editor of the *European Journal of Political Theory*.