

CIVIC VICES

23rd and 24th March 2020

University of Nottingham

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The Project

This workshop aims to develop new insights about civic virtues and civic vices by considering them in the light of recent philosophical work on virtues and vices in ethics and epistemology. Some civic virtues and vices are ethical or epistemic, while others may be hybrid ethic-epistemic virtues or vices. Where that is true, recent work in these other areas will directly illuminate civic virtues and vices. But it is equally important to consider the distinctiveness of civic virtues and vices from ethical and epistemic virtues and vices.

We want to think about the category of civic vices, to see how they might relate to existing categories of ethical and epistemic vices, to see whether retrieving the categories of civic vices would be warranted and useful, and to try and connect these debates with ones in political philosophy and other cognate areas. This workshop follows an extremely successful workshop on Civic Virtues hosted at Nottingham in November 2019 as part of the same project.

Indicative questions

Some of the broad sets of questions of this workshop include:

- What existing traits or characteristics of citizens count as civic vices?
- How stable or fragile are these traits?
- Are there different civic vices for citizens and for political actors - like politicians, civil servants, and others directly involved in the operation of the state?
- What is their significance for the design of political institutions or procedures?
- To what extent are civic vices ethical, or epistemic, or distinctively political?
- Are there ways of designing political institutions or procedures to make them less vulnerable to being undermined by civic vices (i.e. to make them 'vice-proof' or at least more 'vice-resistant')? If so, might these institutions and procedures be better, all things considered, than alternatives that require the absence of civic vices to function well?
- Can political systems and structures be appraised according to their tendency to fuel or promote certain vices?

Submission guidelines

We invite anonymised abstracts of no more than 500 words on any topic related to the workshop's aims and themes, as outlined above. Please submit abstracts in Arial size twelve, double spaced, with justified text. No bibliographies or references, please. All abstracts will be handled by a third-party who will ensure that abstracts are properly anonymised prior to their being sent to the organisers for review. Selected speakers will have 75mins, to be roughly equally divided between the talk and discussion.

We will cover one night's accommodation, the conference dinner, lunch, and refreshments during the workshop, and standard-class rail fare or the equivalent in petrol costs.

Abstracts should be submitted to **civicvirtues@nottingham.ac.uk** by **Friday 24th January**. We aim to select the papers by **Friday 31st January**, to enable time for speakers to work on their papers before the workshop.

Accessibility

Our department is a signatory to the BPA-SWIP (UK) Good Practice Scheme. We will make all practicable accommodations (practical, dietary, logistical, etc.) for those with specific needs: if your paper is accepted, please get in touch with the organisers. Catering will be all-vegan. The conference venue is fully wheelchair accessible, with disabled toilets in the conference venue. There will be 90 mins for lunch and the rest breaks will be 30 mins. We can allocate a room for nursing mothers and a quiet room. We can source a sign language provider, if necessary.

Contact

All queries should be addressed to the workshop organisers – please cc both:

Ian James Kidd
ian.kidd@nottingham.ac.uk

Christopher Woodard
christopher.woodard@nottingham.ac.uk