

# **Conceptions of Equity**

**Practical consequences and philosophical roots**

**Roger Jones 2021-02-11 k013**

# Conceptions of Equity

- 14th Century English (from 13th C French) per wiktionary:
  - Uniformity, impartiality, fairness - what's not to like?
- Progressive radicalisation of interpretation:
  1. Social Liberalism
  2. Critical Theory
  3. Postmodernism
  4. Critical Social Justice

# **A Social Liberal approach to Equity**

**Uniformity, impartiality, fairness** - *what's not to like?*

- Democracy - one person, one vote
- Equality under the law (no legal discrimination)
- Specific legislation symmetrically prohibiting certain kinds of discrimination.
  - Identify kinds of disadvantage and their causes
  - Investigate ways in which those disadvantages can effectively be mitigated
  - Come to a consensus on:
    - minimal acceptable levels of avoidable hardship
    - appropriate levels of intervention
  - Monitor effectiveness and review kinds and levels of intervention

# **Critical Theory** influence on Equity

## **Built on Hegel's Logic and Marx's dialectical materialism**

- Integration of philosophy science and activism
  - Objectivity of science at risk
- Seek complementary oppressor/oppressed partitions
- Emancipate
- Calling this a “logical” dialectic downplays observation or consensus
- The normative element make emancipation a moral imperative
- Also:
  - a totalitarian conception of democracy
  - Marcuse advocacy of “repressive tolerance”

# Postmodern impact on Equity

1. pre-Identified oppressor/oppressed groups, presumed culpability
2. Re-define concepts (notably “racism”)
3. Hypersensitise (proscribed language, micro-aggressions)
4. Inverted oppression