

“Academic Freedom”  
- where does it end?

# Sticks and Stones

## Traditions of Liberal Democracy

- A central aim is to resolve differences without resort to physical violence
- The distinction between physical violence and verbal assault is crucial
- Individual freedom should be preferred to coerced community
- The distinction between objective truth and individual or cultural norms is important.
- The dictatorship of the majority is not “true” democracy

# Totalitarian strategies

- To control what people **do** you must control what people **say**.
- To control what people **say** you must control what they **think**.
- To control what people **think** you must control their **education**.
- The most important education is the earliest, start soon.
- To control education of children you must eliminate the parents.
- To eliminate the parents, attack the nuclear family.

# A trajectory of Academic Politicisation

- ->1937- Gramsci - Cultural Hegemony, “cultural marxism”
- 1937 - Horkheimer - “Critical Theory” should integrate philosophy and activism
- 1945 - Popper - the paradox of tolerance
- 1949 - Orwell - Animal Farm, 1984
- 1965 - Marcuse - repressive tolerance
- 1968 - Rudi Dutschke - student uprising - long march
- 1991 - Crenshaw, intersectionality - Mapping the Margins
- 2006 - Horowitz - The Political Assault on America’s Universities

# The Paradox of Tolerance (Popper)

Unlimited tolerance must lead to the disappearance of tolerance. If we extend unlimited tolerance even to those who are intolerant, if we are not prepared to defend a tolerant society against the onslaught of the intolerant, then the tolerant will be destroyed, and tolerance with them.—In this formulation, I do not imply, for instance, that we should always suppress the utterance of intolerant philosophies; as long as we can counter them by rational argument and keep them in check by public opinion, suppression would certainly be most unwise. But we should claim the right to suppress them if necessary even by force; for it may easily turn out that they are not prepared to meet us on the level of rational argument, but begin by denouncing all argument; they may forbid their followers to listen to rational argument, because it is deceptive, and teach them to answer arguments by the use of their fists or pistols. We should therefore claim, in the name of tolerance, the right not to tolerate the intolerant. We should claim that any movement preaching intolerance places itself outside the law and we should consider incitement to intolerance and persecution as criminal, in the same way as we should consider incitement to murder, or to kidnapping, or to the revival of the slave trade, as criminal.



1     Section 1. NEW SECTION. 261H.7 Race and sex stereotyping —  
2 training by institution prohibited.

3     1. For purposes of this section, unless the context  
4 otherwise requires:

5     a. "*Divisive concepts*" includes all of the following:

6       (1) That one race or sex is inherently superior to another  
7 race or sex.

8       (2) That the United States of America and the state of Iowa  
9 are fundamentally racist or sexist.

10      (3) That an individual, by virtue of the individual's race  
11 or sex, is inherently or systematically racist, sexist, or  
12 oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously.

13      (4) That an individual should be discriminated against  
14 or receive adverse treatment solely or partly because of the  
15 individual's race or sex.

16      (5) That members of one race or sex cannot and should not  
17 attempt to treat others without respect to race or sex.

18      (6) That an individual's moral character is necessarily  
19 determined by the individual's race or sex.

20      (7) That an individual, by virtue of the individual's race  
21 or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past  
22 by other members of the same race or sex.

23      (8) That any individual should feel discomfort, guilt,  
24 anguish, or any other form of psychological distress on account  
25 of that individual's race or sex.