



CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF
PHILOSOPHY

COLLOQUIUM SERIES



*All talks will be held on Fridays in Room 202 Tory at 1:00 pm unless otherwise noted *
* Please visit our website at <http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy/> for detailed abstracts *

“Sufficiency: from compassion to capabilities”

Jay Drydyk

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Readers of ‘Equality as a Moral Ideal’ (Frankfurt 1987) had more than a decade to detect the flaws in Harry Frankfurt’s sufficientarianism before Martha Nussbaum proposed a quite different sufficiency norm for the capability approach, namely that each person should have sufficient capabilities for a life of human dignity. Three years later, Roger Crisp proposed an alternative in which priorities are set from the perspective of a spectator that is not only impartial but compassionate (Crisp 2003).

In the past 15 years the Frankfurt/Crisp stem has added many branches of further discussion, which have been unfortunately overlooked by exponents of the capability approach. To remedy this oversight, I begin by re-tracing the steps of Crisp’s argument, asking what difference the capability approach might make at each step.

The result is a highly egalitarian conception of sufficiency that continues to give priority to the worse off below the sufficiency threshold, while continuing to recognize that oppression can occur above that threshold.

Friday, February 8, 2019

Room: 202 Tory

Time: 1:00 p.m.

All are welcome!