

Recognition and Redistribution

Reading: Nancy Fraser, “Multiculturalism, Antiessentialism and Radical Democracy.” *TF*.

- i) What is “radical democracy”? What are the two impediments to radical democracy?
- ii) What is the difference between a politics of recognition and a politics of redistribution? (Can you give an example of each?) Fraser says that “injustices of recognition are thoroughly imbricated with injustices of distribution.” (460) What does she mean by this?
- iii) Fraser argues that there are two different forms of identity politics: antiessentialism and multiculturalism. What are their similarities and differences? How are antiessentialism and multiculturalism a response to the 1990s emphasis on “multiple intersecting differences”?
- iv) She argues, however, that both forms of identity politics are problematic, and the problem stems from “a common root.” (461, 468) What is the problem?
- v) Fraser suggests that instead of pursuing identity politics, feminists (and others) should “resituate the task of integrating redistribution and recognition in a new, more complex, political field. Cultural demands would have to interimbricate with social demands across the entire spectrum of crosscutting axes of domination.” (464) What are the risks and goals of such a project? How might we pursue it? Can you give an example of a political movement that takes up this challenge?

Fraser, Nancy. "Multiculturalism, Antiessentialism, and Radical Democracy: A Genealogy of the Current Impasse in Feminist Theory." In *Theorizing Feminisms: A Reader*. Edited by Elizabeth Hackett and Sally Haslanger. Oxford University Press, 2005. © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <http://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

WGS.301J / 17.007J / 24.237J / 17.006 Feminist Thought
Fall 2014

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.