

"Equality of Opportunity in Theory and Practice"

Workshop Summary

Prof. Shlomi Segall, The Hebrew University

Prof. Adina Preda, Universite de Montreal

Prof. Iwao Hirose, McGill University

December 6-7, 2012

The workshop was convened at the Hebrew University on December 6-7 2012. It was initiated and funded by the Halbert Center for Canadian Studies, with additional support from the Law Faculty.

The workshop was condensed into two very intensive days. It concluded after lunchtime on Friday, and was followed by a tour of the city of Jerusalem for the Canadian participants.

The overall theme of the workshop was equality of opportunity. The rationale and impetus was the re-emergence of this concept in political philosophy in the past twenty years or so. The two days were organized thematically. We had a group of papers on luck egalitarianism, a leading theory of justice that places opportunity and responsibility at its focus of attention. Here we can include papers by Macleod, Attas, Preda, and Voigt. There were papers dealing with equality itself and the pattern of distributive justice (Hirose and Segall). And thirdly, we had papers applying equality of opportunity to major spheres of policy such as discrimination and health (papers by Porat, de-Shalit, and Ram-Tiktin).

The workshop had two main goals. One was to generate a discussion into the re-emergence of equality of opportunity, and invite leading thinkers to offer fresh perspectives on this concept. The other aim was to establish academic contacts between Israeli and Canadian researchers working in the field of egalitarian thought. From informal conversation throughout and after the workshop it is my impression that the workshop was a success on both fronts. The papers presented were in a very high level of rigor and philosophical depth. The discussion was very active and fruitful. I was particularly happy, by the way, to see many of our graduate students around the round table. I think the workshop offered them a chance to witness philosophical undertaking of the first order. And finally, I was glad to see relationships formed between researchers (this was aided by the pairing of Canadian speakers with Israeli commentators). Hopefully, the contacts formed during the workshop will yield co-operation in the future.

I have to end this report by saying what a pleasure it was to work in preparing the workshop with the administrative staff of the Halbert Center. Daphna and Ahuva have done a wonderful job in making our lives as easy as possible and creating an exquisitely planned workshop, from the room arrangement, to meals, restaurant, tour, and of course flights and accommodation. One should also not forget the help of Taly from the Law faculty and her help, particularly with catering.

List of participants

1. *Adina Preda, Universite de Montreal
2. Alon Harel, The Hebrew University
3. Avigail Ferdman, The Hebrew University
4. Avner de-Shalit, The Hebrew University
5. *Colin Macleod, Victoria
6. Dana Gur, The Hebrew University
7. Daniel Attas, The Hebrew University
8. Daniel Schwartz, The Hebrew University
9. David Enoch, The Hebrew University
10. David Heyd, The Hebrew University
11. Efrat Ram-Tiktin, Bar Ilan University
12. Etye Steinberg, The Hebrew University
13. Iddo Porat, Academic Center of Law and Business
14. Ittay Nissan, The Hebrew University
15. *Iwao Hirose, McGill
16. *Kristin Voigt, McGill
17. Ofer Malcai, The Hebrew University
18. Ronit Irshai, Bar Ilan University
19. Shiri Cohen, The Hebrew University
20. Shlomi Segall, The Hebrew University
21. Tal Manor
22. Tammy Harel Ben-Shachar, The Hebrew University
23. Vardit Damari-Madar
24. Yifat Biton, The College of Management
25. Yitzhak Benbaji, Tel Aviv University

* Canadians

Conference Agenda

Thursday, December 6th

8:45 – Greetings: Prof. Rehav Rubin, The Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies

9:00 – 10:00 **Iddo Porat** (Academic Center of Law and Business), ‘Between Intentional Discrimination and Discriminatory Side Effects’

- Commentator: David Enoch, The Hebrew University

10:15 – 11:15 **Daniel Attas** (The Hebrew University), ‘Equality of Opportunity: Traditional and Revisionist’

- Commentator: Tally Kritzman-Amir, Academic Center of Law and Business and the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

11:30 – 12:30 **Kristin Voigt** (McGill), ‘Luck Egalitarianism and Disadvantageous Preferences’

- Commentator: Tammy Harel Ben-Shachar, The Hebrew University

Lunch – 12:30 - 13:45

13:45 – 14:45 **Adina Preda** (Universite de Montreal), ‘Equality, Opportunity, and Time’

- Commentator: Shiri Cohen, The Hebrew University

15:00 – 16:00 **Iwao Hirose** (McGill), ‘Equality and Priority’

- Commentator: Yitzhak Benbaji, Tel Aviv University

16:30 – 17:30 **Shlomi Segall** (The Hebrew University), ‘Equality or Sufficiency?’

- Commentator: Alon Harel, The Hebrew University

Friday, December 7th

9:00 – 10:00 **Avner de-Shalit** (The Hebrew University), ‘Equal Opportunities to Functionings’

- Commentator: Ittay Nissan, The Hebrew University

10:30 – 11:30 **Efrat Ram-Tiktin** (Bar Ilan University), ‘Equality of Opportunity vs. Sufficiency of Capabilities in Health’

- Commentator: David Heyd, The Hebrew University

11:45 – 12:45 **Colin Macleod** (Victoria), ‘Equality of Opportunity and the Consequences of Choice’

- Commentator: Daniel Schwartz, The Hebrew University