

Cheers and Concerns on the Meritocracy

Dates: 14-15 May 2024

Venue: Seminar room 3

Workshop conveners:

Anatolia Batruch (U Lausanne)

Jonathan Mijs (Boston U)

Sponsors:

Herman van de Werfhorst (EUI SPS Department)

EUI Research cluster Inequality, Welfare and Social Justice

Contact: Monika.Rzemieniecka@eui.eu

Schedule:

Day 1

10.00 - 12.30 Educational program

Session 1: Conceptualizing meritocracy (Mijs)

Questions:

- What is a meritocracy?
- What is compelling about a meritocracy?
- What are its main challenges?
- (How) can the meritocracy be salvaged?

Readings:

- Young 1998 (3 pages)
- Bell 1972 (8pp)
- Karabel 2006 (6pp)
- Bills 2019 (14pp)

Session 2: Meritocracy, Education and Inequality (Batruch)

- What is school meritocracy?
- How is meritocracy implemented in schools?
- What are the effects of focusing on merit?

Readings:

- Darnon et al., 2017 (10 pp)
- Trautwein et al., 2006 (14 pp)

13.30 - 15.30 Student presentations

16.00 - 17.00 Cluster Presentation Anatolia Batruch “Advancing the Psychology of Social Class with Large-Scale Replications in Four Countries” (open for all)

Day 2

10.00 - 12.30 Educational program

Session 3: Psychological consequences (Batruch)

- What are the psychological effects of believing in meritocracy?
- What are the individual, intergroup and ideological consequences of a legitimized education-based hierarchy?
- Future directions for the field

Readings:

- Kuppens et al., 2015 (14 pp)
- Kuppens et al., 2019 (17 pp)

Access to workshop readings Sessions 1 & 4:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Ddf_Z_MelioKpVT6K35uQHTItJfs38d?usp=sharing

Session 4: Legitimation of inequality (Mijs)

Questions:

- How do people, by and large, perceive inequality?
- What are the sources of their beliefs about inequality?
- How and why do people think inequalities are justified?
- How could such beliefs be confronted most effectively?

Readings:

- Kiatpongsan & Norton 2014 (6 pages)
- Kim 2022 (13pp)
- Mijs 2021 (25pp)
- Trump 2017 (21pp)
- Sands 2017 (6pp)

13.30 - 15.30 Student presentations

16.00 - 17.00 Cluster Presentation Jonathan Mijs. Why Unequal Countries Stay That Way: Lessons Learned About the Social Life of Inequality. (open for all)

Access to workshop readings Sessions 1 & 4:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1F3diC_iXwWS_ogp5oUx3bi7-FQBJEb7h?usp=sharing