

Toleration and Multiculturalism: Western and Eastern Perspectives

July 7 – July 18, 2003

Course director:

[Matt Matravers](#) (University of York, UK)

Resource persons:

[Maxim Khomiakov](#) (Ural State University, Russia)

[Susan Mendus](#) (University of York, UK)

[Nenad Miščević](#) (University of Maribor, Slovenia)

Short biographies

Matt Matravers

Lecturer in Political Philosophy and Director, Morrell Studies in Toleration, at the University of York. He was born in South Africa and educated mostly in England. He joined the Department of Politics at York from the London School of Economics and Political Science, from which he graduated in 1990 (B.Sc. Econ.) and 1994 (Ph.D.). He is the author of *Justice and Punishment*, Oxford University Press, 2000 and of a number of papers in political and moral philosophy. He is currently working on the problem of responsibility.

Maxim Khomiakov

Doctor of Sciences, Actual Member of Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, Director, Ural Center For Advanced Studies and Education at Ural State University and Director, Institute of Toleration and Comparative Studies in World Civilizations both at Ural State University, Ekaterinburg, Russia. Associate professor (docent) and Deputy Dean, Department of Philosophy, Ural State University. He is the author of, among other, *Deus ex machina: Rationalism i mysticism v filosofii obshego dela Fedorova (Rationalism and mysticism in the Fedorov's "Philosophy of the Common Task")*, Ekaterinburg, 1995; "Tolerantnost kak socio-kulturnaya problema" ("Toleration as a socio-cultural problem"), Sbornik materialov Zimney Shkoly Molodyh Uchenykh "Tolerantnost i nenasiliye: teoriya i mezhdunarodniy opyt", Chast 2, Ekaterinburg, UrGU-press, 2000; "Tolerance and contemporary civilization" (in Russian and English) in *Tolerance*, Ekaterinburg, UrGU-press, 2000; *Problema tolerantnosti v christianskoy filosofii (The Problem of Toleration in Christian Philosophy)*, Ekaterinburg, UrGU-press, 2000.

Susan Mendus

Professor of Politics at the University of York. She was educated in Wales and at Oxford. She has been Morrell Fellow in Toleration, University of York, 1985-1991; Visiting Fellow, Advanced Study Centre, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA, April, 1998; British Academy/Leverhulme Trust Senior Research Fellow, 1999-2000; and Visiting Fellow, Research School for Social Science, Australian National University, September - December 1997 and January - May 2000. Her publications include *Toleration and the Limits of Liberalism*, Macmillan, 1989; *Feminism and Emotion*, Macmillan, 2000; *Impartiality in Moral and Political Philosophy*, Oxford University Press, 2002; and numerous papers in political and moral philosophy. She is currently working on political integrity.

Nenad Miščević

Full professor of philosophy at Philosophy department of the University of Maribor, Slovenia and

Recurrent Visiting Professor at Philosophy Dept. of Central European University Budapest. He was born in Zagreb, Croatia. He studied philosophy and social science in Zagreb University, and at the University of Chicago (1969/70), graduated 1972, Zagreb. Post-graduate studies at the University of Paris-X (Nanterre) with Paul Ricoeur. DES en philosophie from Université de Paris X. Doctorate on "Theories of communication intention-Austin, Grice, Strawson" 1981. University of Ljubljana. In addition, he has held visiting lectureships at the University of Klagenfurt (Austria) in 1994 and the Université de Genève in 1996. His publications in English include *Rationality and Cognition*, University of Toronto Press, 2000; *Nationalism and ethnic conflict: philosophical perspectives* (editor), Open Court, Carus Publishing Company, Illinois, 2000; *Nationalism and Beyond*, CEU Press, Budapest, 2001. He is the author of several other books in Croatian and Slovenian and of numerous papers in English and other languages.

Course objectives

The problem of multicultural and multiethnic states has become of increasing importance, nowhere more so than in Russia and in Eastern and Central Europe. Minority cultures and groups are increasingly making claims for autonomy, group rights and representation, and for toleration. Both politically and philosophically, this is now an urgent issue. This course aims to introduce students to the problems of multiculturalism and toleration in terms of both theory and practice. Furthermore, the aim is to examine and contrast the Russian and Western approaches to these problems. This will encompass both the history of the idea of toleration and its contemporary application to Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The expected learning outcomes for participants include

- ☉ an ability to situate the problems of toleration and multiculturalism in their *historical* context.
- ☉ an ability to place the problems of toleration and multiculturalism in the context of other debates in contemporary political philosophy.
- ☉ an understanding of the similarities and differences in different political and philosophical traditions.
- ☉ an ability to read political and philosophical texts carefully and critically.

Course level

This is an introductory course offered to junior faculty and advanced graduate students (mainly in political science and philosophy) interested in the problems of toleration and multiculturalism. Although there are no specific prerequisites, participants are required to read and understand papers prior to the course. Therefore, some general knowledge of recent political and moral philosophy is essential.

Course format

The course offers a combination of lectures and seminars, some including student presentations. The course will focus on analysis of argument. Participants are expected to take an active part in the discussions.

If possible, the organisers intend to run e-mail discussion forums before and after the course. This will depend on the capacity of students to take part.

Assessment

Assessment will be by a combination of methods: evaluation of performance in seminars; an essay submitted after the close of the face-to-face course in Budapest; and the development of a sample syllabus also submitted after the close of the course.

Course content

The aim of the course is to consider the problems raised by the demands of tolerance and multiculturalism. Tolerance is a key virtue in the development of free and open societies, but such societies also depend on limiting tolerance. The increasing self-awareness of minority cultural and ethnic groups has led to an increase in demands for group rights, autonomy, and even secession. In this course, we will consider the history of the concept of toleration and its current application to these problems, looking at and comparing the Anglo-American and Eastern approaches to the issues raised. Such issues are increasingly becoming the focus of courses in Higher Education in CEE/fSU. Our aim is to provide the foundations for such courses. This is, then, a philosophical course with immediate and urgent practical import.

The course will consist of three interrelated themes (the theory of toleration; its application; a comparative analysis). Each will be led by one scholar, but with the participation of the others as appropriate. In cases where the explicit theme is to compare different approaches the lectures and seminars will be jointly taught. In this way we hope to gain maximum advantage from having gathered together leading experts in their respective fields.

Syllabus

TOPICS	RESOURCE PERSON	HOURS	TEACHING MODE	DISCUSSION POINTS
Introduction to the course and to the problems of toleration and multiculturalism: Toleration and Religion. Toleration and Multiculturalism.	Professor Khomiakov Dr. Matravers	6	2, 1 hour lectures and 2, 2 hour seminars	What is toleration? How does multiculturalism relate to the demands of toleration?

<p>The Development of the Idea of Toleration: The Middle Ages;</p> <p>The Early Modern Period;</p> <p>Religious Toleration in Russia;</p> <p>Liberal Tolerance;</p> <p>Theory and Practice</p>	<p>Professor Khomiakov</p> <p>Professor Mendus</p>	12	<p>2, 1 hour lectures and 2, 2 hour seminars</p> <p>2, 1 hour lectures and 2, 2 hour seminars</p>	<p>How did the idea of toleration develop in the West and East? What was John Locke's contribution to the idea of toleration?</p>
<p>Contemporary liberalism</p>	<p>Prof. Mendus</p>	6	<p>2, 1 hour lectures and 2, 2 hour seminars</p>	<p>What is the contemporary liberal ideal of toleration and how is it related to the historical idea of the concept? What principles underpin the liberal state with respect to the diversity of conceptions of the good that characterises modernity?</p>
<p>The 'construction' of group identity: culture and nationalism.</p>	<p>Prof. Mišćević</p>	12	<p>4, 1 hour lectures and 4, 2 hour seminars</p>	<p>What makes a group? Is group identity 'constructed' or 'essential'. What is the role and significance of nationality and nationalism (why are groups important?). Can we compare, and if so what emerges from the comparison of, identity and the fragmentation of states in Eastern Europe with the Canadian experience?</p>
<p>Multiculturalism, Group Rights, and the Politics of Toleration:</p> <p>Group Rights;</p>	<p>Dr. Matravers</p>	9	<p>3, 1 hour lectures and 3, 2 hour seminars</p>	<p>Ought we tolerate those of whom we disapprove? How should we understand demands for 'group rights'? What difference does it make whether the rights demanded are <i>external</i> rights to protect a minority group from interference by the majority</p>

<p>Multiculturalism and free speech;</p> <p>Multiculturalism, Multiethnic Societies, and Territorial Sovereignty</p>				<p>or <i>internal</i> rights to self-governance? How should a liberal society accommodate the demand for group rights? How can people be motivated to respect others?</p>
<p>A Comparative Analysis</p>	<p>Professor Khomiakov Dr. Matravers</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>1, 1 hour lecture and 1, 2hour seminar</p>	<p>How do attitudes to toleration differ in the West and in CEE/fSU? How far do these differences reflect differences in the theory of toleration? What are the practical problems confronting the West and CEE/fSU? How can they be resolved?</p>