



The Department of Philosophy and the Centre for the Study of Democracy and Diversity Present:

The Ethics of Sanctuary in Democratic States

Patti Lenard

Thursday, February 8, 2018

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Watson Hall, Room 517

About the Lecture: The central objection that people offer to sanctuary policies is that they somehow serve to interfere with a state's ability to control entry and exit of a territory, i.e., with a state's sovereign right to control its borders. Yet, in the majority of cases, there is no clear case to be made that so-called 'sanctuary' policies impede, even if they do not aid, the ability of a state to engage in border control. In order to make this case, Patti Lenard offers an account of the minimal criteria of immigration justice and argues that, in cases where we are reasonably sure that an immigration system and its corresponding enforcement mechanisms meet the criteria of minimal justice, it is morally required that actors who aim to achieve an even greater level of justice work within the system, and correspondingly, when these criteria are not met, working to subvert or undermine the system can be justified. However, when it can be shown that sanctuary policies do impede the ability of a state to control its borders, especially in cases where the minimal criteria of immigration of justice are met, we have reason to judge them harshly.

About the Speaker: Patti Tamara Lenard is Associate Professor of Ethics in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Ottawa. She is the author of *Trust, Democracy and Multicultural Challenges* (Penn State, 2012). Her current research focuses on the moral questions raised by migration across borders in an era of terrorism, as well as on multiculturalism, trust and social cohesion, and democratic theory more generally.

