

Department of Philosophy Presents The Alistair Macleod Distinguished Ž · , ð

This is the inaugural lecture in an annual lecture series established in honour of Professor Emeritus Dr. Alistair Macleod for his dedication and commitment to the Queen's Department of Philosophy, Queen's University as a whole, and the discipline of philosophy in general.

Thursday,
January 19
4:00 p.m.

Watson Hall
Room 517

RECEPTION
TO FOLLOW



Solidarity, Diversity and an Ethics of Social Membership



Will Kymlicka
Queen's University

Social-democratic politics in the 20th-century was often tied (in T.H. Marshall's terminology) to the idea of a "shared society" which is seen as a "common possession" of its members. When citizens view society as their common possession, they will feel a sense of commitment to it and to their co-citizens, and this sense of loyalty to society as a common possession generates the solidarity that underpins the democratic welfare state. Social democrats therefore viewed it as essential to nurture a sense of forming a shared society and of identifying as a member of that society: social democratic politics has been society-building and membership-building. While this vision of politics has arguably underpinned some of the most progressive developments of the post-war era, it has also been complicit in many of the worst injustices, not least in settler societies like Canada. In this talk, I will explore some of the moral dilemmas raised by an ethics of social membership, and some of the strategies for resolving them.

Will Kymlicka is the Canada Research Chair in Political Philosophy at Queen's University, where he has taught since 1998. His research interests focus on issues of democracy and diversity, and in particular on models of citizenship and social justice within multicultural societies. Among his many honours, Professor Kymlicka was the winner of the 2019 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Gold Medal.

Everyone Welcome!

For accessibility requirements, please contact philosophy@queensu.ca