

The Institute of Ideas and Institut français present

ATTENTION SEEKING

MULTICULTURALISM AND THE POLITICS OF RECOGNITION

Saturday 16 November 2002

10.30am - 12noon

CAN MULTICULTURALISM WORK?

Bonnie Greer novelist and playwright

Adam Kuper Professor of Social Anthropology, Brunel University

Kenan Malik author of *The Meaning of Race*

Vic Motune deputy editor, *The Voice*

12.30 - 1.30pm

DIVERSITY - CELEBRATING DIFFERENCE OR MAKING A VIRTUE OF INEQUALITY?

Paul Kelly editor of *Multiculturalism*

Reconsidered

Raj Pal Head of Museums and Art, Sandwell

Metropolitan Borough Council

Bruno Waterfield ePolitix.com

1:30-2:30 pm

lunch

2.30 - 4:00pm

PLEASE RECOGNISE MY IDENTITY - ACCOUNTING FOR THE CONTEMPORARY CONCERN WITH RECOGNITION

Identity politics, whether in the realm of race, culture, sexuality or even individual self-worth, dominate the contemporary world. Some argue that social progress develops through the struggle for recognition of these identities. Has the need for recognition always been a key driver in history? To what extent is our identity based on having our differences affirmed? Is the claim for recognition of identity an end in itself?

Eliazar Barkan author of *The Guilt of Nations: Restitution and Negotiating Historical Injustices*

Stephen A Erickson E Wilson Lyon Professor of Humanities and Professor of Philosophy at Pomona College in Claremont, California

Frank Furedi Professor of Sociology, University of Kent at Canterbury

Simon Thompson author of *The Political Theory of Recognition*, forthcoming from Polity Press

4.30 - 5.30pm

CLAIM-MAKING AND RECOGNITION - CASES IN POINT

A panel will look at the arenas of politics, litigation, crime and health to see how the demand for identity lead to claims for recognition.

Tracey Brown contributor to *Compensation Crazy: Do We Blame and Claim Too Much?*

Phil Carney researcher at Middlesex University

Dr Michael Fitzpatrick GP and author of *The Tyranny of Health*

Chris Gilligan lecturer in sociology, University of Ulster

5.45 - 6.45pm

SHOULD GOVERNMENTS BE IN THE RECOGNITION BUSINESS?

If recognition is accepted as a fundamental human need, to what extent do we have to change our public and private institutions to take account of it? Does the demand for official identity recognition give the state a new legitimacy in establishing relationships with individuals?

Mick Hume editor of spiked and columnist for *The Times*

Oonagh Reitman research fellow at the Gender Institute, LSE

Dominic Standish Italy Daily columnist for *International Herald Tribune*

www.InstituteofIdeas.com

Venue: Institut français, 17 Queensberry Place, London SW7 2DT

Tickets: £25 (£20 concessions) lol associates £20 (£15 concessions)

Booking: For tickets or information call 020 7269 9220

Multiculturalism is now generally regarded as the only model for a fair society. The idea of a universal culture is considered outdated and even racist. Instead, we are asked to grant equal esteem to every culture, while recognising the unique qualities of each.

This demand for recognition is not confined to ethnicity. Sufferers from undiagnosed symptoms demand medical recognition; gay people demand official recognition for same-sex partnerships; individuals litigate to have grievances endorsed by officialdom; and ethnic groups claim privileged access to historic and artistic artefacts.

This one-day conference will explore whether all this is good for social harmony and individual self-realisation, or simply indulgent and fragmentary.

Special thanks to Geraldine D'Amico, cultural attaché with the French Embassy, Catherine Audard, chair of the Forum for European Philosophy and Nicolas Chapuis, director of the Institut français.