

The Egalitarian constitution: modern identity in three moral values **Price**, J.D.

Citation

Price, J. D. (2018, September 18). *The Egalitarian constitution: modern identity in three moral values*. s.n., S.l. Retrieved from https://hdl.handle.net/1887/65565

Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

License: License agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the

Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden

Downloaded from: https://hdl.handle.net/1887/65565

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Cover Page



Universiteit Leiden



The handle http://hdl.handle.net/1887/65565 holds various files of this Leiden University dissertation.

Author: Price, J.D.

Title: The Egalitarian constitution: modern identity in three moral values

Issue Date: 2018-09-18

The Egalitarian Constitution: Modern identity in three moral values

PROEFSCHRIFT

ter verkrijging van

de graad van Doctor aan de Universiteit Leiden,
op gezag van Rector Magnificus prof. mr. C.J.J.M. Stolker,
volgens besluit van het College voor Promoties
te verdedigen op dinsdag 18 september 2018
klokke 16.15 uur

door

Jonathan David Price

geboren te Poughkeepsie, New York, USA

in 1981

Promotor: prof. dr. A. A. M. Kinneging

Promotiecommissie: prof. dr. A. Ellian

prof. dr. A. Nogal (University of Warsaw, Poland) prof. dr. A. Klamer (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

dr. B. Labuschagne

Table of Contents

Introduction: 'the immovable keystone'	1
Persons, natural and corporate	3
Modern values	5
The alter-conscience	6
The egalitarian mind	8
The egalitarian constitution	9
Division of the study	10
Structure of the argument	11
A note on pronouns	12
Ancient vs Modern	13
De-sociologizing the conversation	16
Part I: What is it like to be modern?	19
Chapter 1: Taking the 'internal point of view'	19
Whence 'modernity'?	22
Open questions	24
Not a genealogy of values	26
What of the 'post-modern'?	27
Aren't these just Enlightenment values?	28
Of bats and men	30
Constitution, regime, politeia	31
Modern culture	33
Bounds of the egalitarian constitution	34
Constitution as culture	35
Chapter 2: Three constituting values	38
Consent, equality & autonomy, briefly defined	39
Consent	39
Equality	41
Autonomy	44
Inflected universal values	48
Chapter 3: More than mere values	54

Virtues	55
Nomoi	57
First principles and Dogmas	60
A public morality	63
Metaphysical and methodological individualism	64
Three revolutions produced the egalitarian constitution	68
What is it like to be a consensual autonomous egalitarian?	70
PART II: What is it like to be equal?	73
Thought experiment: Fair science	74
Chapter 4: Universal Equality	78
Equality of 'persons'	78
Universal equality as value and virtue	79
From mathematical relation to cosmic truth	82
Problems of 'equality'	84
Chapter 5: The Alter-Conscience	91
Justice as (more than just) fairness	91
The individual	94
Natural goodness	97
Ancient moral-political persons	99
Real-ideal correspondence	103
Suum cuique	104
Duties and obligations	105
Persons and Personae	107
'to each according to his need'	110
Sola aequalitas	112
Fair science: an initial response	115
Self-determining together	118
Chapter 6: The Egalitarian Mind	121
Before we were all egalitarians	121
Traditions of equality	123
Modern equalities	124
Ancient equalities	130
De amicitia	134
Friendship's sublimation of equality	135

Treating likes alike	136
By nature equal (in duty)	139
Inequality as original sin	144
I-You encounters	147
Following equality	149
Consensual autonomy	156
Unencumbered selves	158
PART III: Moderating values: consensualism and personal autonomy	164
Chapter 7: What is it like to be consensual?	165
Thought Experiment: Self(less)-determination	167
The door to obligation	169
Obligation and duty	170
The authority of consent	173
(Self-)knowledge and equity	176
How can consent obligate?	179
From status to contract	182
Consensualism as value and virtue	184
Could anyone consent to that?	189
Privatization of public law	191
Consensualism needs autonomy	193
Chapter 8: What is it like to be autonomous?	194
Toward a composite conception of autonomy	196
Autonomy and heteronomy in brief	197
Personal autonomy	197
Participative heteronomy	202
Autonomy and heteronomy as ways of life	206
Varieties of autonomous experience	207
PART IV: Reconstructing the Egalitarian Mind	214
Chapter 9: Being my own end	214
Self-sovereignty and the <i>liber</i>	215
Romantic self-discovery	220
Stuck between Jean-Jacques and John Locke	224
Self-expression	225
Imago dei	227

Augustine's 'inner self'	229
Conscience	233
Moral self-governance	235
Identity and recognition	238
Recognition as rights	240
'Haven in a heartless world'	243
Self-creation	244
The body's work	245
The autonomy of enquiry	247
Conclusion: Sounding out the egalitarian constitution	251
Reconstructing the egalitarian constitution	252
Mainlining the egalitarian mind	256
Can it solve the thought experiments?	260
Fairer science	260
Group autonomy	262
Does the centre hold?	263
Summary	267
Summary (Dutch)	271
Bibliography	277
Curriculum Vitae	295