



SOCRATIC DIALOGUE

What are the limits of cultural sensitivity?

Saturday 1st February 10.00 – 16.30 & Sunday 2nd February 2024, 10.00-13.00

LONDON, Lancaster Hall Hotel, 35 Craven Terrace, London. W2 3EL

We are delighted to offer a one-and-a-half-day dialogue facilitated by Anna Bromley in London on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd February 2025 on the question: 'What are the limits of cultural sensitivity?' Compared to one-day dialogues, the extra half day with a night in between gives time for deeper reflection.

Please note, participants are asked to attend both days. It's not possible to book for Saturday only. Please arrive at 10.00 for a 10.15 start on each day. Tea/coffee/lunch will be provided. An optional contribution of £20 towards the cost of refreshments can be given on the day.

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL. Please complete [this booking form](#). If you need financial support towards travel expenses to enable you to attend, please contact s.j.banks@durham.ac.uk detailing the estimated amount and reasons.

What are the limits of cultural sensitivity? An introduction by Anna Bromley, facilitator

'Cultural sensitivity' is a complex concept. One definition suggests it comprises 'awareness and appreciation of the values, norms, and beliefs characteristic of a cultural, ethnic, racial, or other group that is not one's own, accompanied by a willingness to adapt one's behaviour accordingly'. I strive to be culturally sensitive at all times to everyone, yet I often fall short. I also yearn for a fair world where people show compassion toward each other for unintentional transgressions. In this Socratic Dialogue, I hope we may learn about a range of experiences, both positive and negative, associated with cultural sensitivity. In society, there appears to be a spectrum of views on this issue. On one side, in addition to legal requirements, some argue for the necessity to respect and protect ethnic and religious diversity, among other social identifiers, at all costs. On the other side, some advocate for the freedom of speech, even if it means causing offence. From a philosophical standpoint, themes such as happiness, the will, and our rights to complain or express our opinions are related to this question. By using the Socratic Method, my hope in this dialogue is to see if we can draw broader conclusions about one of more sub-questions raised by this topic, such as where the balance lies between the right to complain and the responsibility not to offend.

Who is it for? This event is part of a series organised by the Society for the Furtherance of Critical Philosophy (SFCP) in different parts of England. These dialogues are aimed at people interested in pursuing a philosophical question in some depth in a small group. They are suitable for people who have not experienced a Socratic Dialogue before, as well as those who have participated previously. We ask that you attend the whole dialogue and commit to



engaging in constructive conversations with others. Advance booking is required. There is no charge, but we ask for a voluntary contribution (suggested £20) on the day towards tea/coffee and lunches, which will be provided on both days.

What is Socratic Dialogue? Socratic Dialogue is a means of exploring complex philosophical concepts or questions with a group of people. SFCP promotes and supports what is often called 'neo-Socratic Dialogue' in the tradition of German philosophers Leonard Nelson (1882-1927) and Gustav Heckman (1898-1996) (see <http://sfcip.org.uk/socratic-dialogue/>). It is a method by which a group works together with a facilitator to find an answer to a well-formed philosophical question (such as: 'What is justice?', 'On what occasions is it right to lie' or 'What is my responsibility for the future?'). The process involves collecting concrete examples relevant to the question from participants, choosing one example to work on, analysing and exploring the chosen example, articulating its core statement and then moving to consider more general principles in answer to the question. It can be very hard to answer an abstract question easily, which is why we start by examining a concrete example, before moving on to consider general principles. Participants usually find the process of exploring ideas and lines of reasoning together in a group is challenging and exciting, encouraging skills in listening, patience and collaborative working.

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For any queries, please contact: s.j.banks@durham.ac.uk