



Wesleyan University

Safe Enough Spaces

How do we go from a procedure-based approach to encouraging the participation of people with diverse identities and diverse points of view?

Part One: From Affirmative Action to Inclusion

Part Two: Use and Abuse of Political Correctness

Part Three: Free Speech and Intellectual Diversity

...from safe enough spaces to political engagement Beyond the University

From Affirmative Action to Equity and Inclusion

1. **No way to win argument about numbers who deserve to get in, or individuals**
2. **Much harder to measure inclusion, but it's much more effective for those who are meant to benefit from affirmative action**
3. **TENSION between critical thinking & inclusion**

Use and Abuse of Political Correctness

1. **Marxian Background and New Left rejection of conformism**
2. **Allan Bloom inspired stream of complaints about higher ed and kids today**
3. **TENSION between academic freedom and indoctrination**

Free Speech and Intellectual Diversity

1. Procedures not enough, not with the libertarian cooptation of “speech”
2. Affirmative action for conservatives
3. TENSION between safe enough spaces & transformative learning

Moving from Intellectual Diversity to Civic Education through Participation

Three Principles of E2020

- 1. Developing civic preparedness is a core element of the mission of American higher education.**
- 2. Participating in American political life helps students learn from a diversity of ideas and people while developing skills for lifelong, active citizenship.**
- 3. Empowering students and teachers to engage with the complex issues facing the country are crucial facets of higher education's contributions to the common good.**