

Chat Comments from Western Early Modern E-vent 2020/06/05

Informal Discussion: What skills and capacities do you think the next generation of early modern scholars most need to advance the field?

- 13:35:57 From Nate Rocwood : It's an outrage!!!
- 13:37:49 From Nate Rocwood : (That most of the EM philosophers views are false, that is)
- 13:40:41 From David Landy : If it helps, I was speaking to their views on race, specifically.
- 13:41:07 From Nate Rocwood : Ah. You're right about that, no doubt.
- 13:45:42 From Jan-Erik Jones : I like adding concepts of race to a history of philosophy course, especially as it relates to morality, political theories, anthropology, etc. I think students are really open to it. I just haven't come up with a clear set of readings that I feel ready to present.
- 13:46:08 From Jan-Erik Jones : Any pointers on what readings have worked for you?
- 13:48:21 From Nate Rocwood : It might be helpful to add suggestions in the chat
- 13:50:10 From Jan-Erik Jones : I love that suggestion. Thank you, Benjamin. A revised syllabus would be nice (if it's NOT extra work for you).
- 13:55:07 From Lewis Powell : Is it possible to add racial diversity to an early modern syllabus without making the humanity of the minority groups a major focus of the unit? I think one aspect of the question that was being posed was that you can integrate women philosophers without making the personhood of women the major focus (though you can also integrate women in ways that make the sexism of the era more central), so you can separate representation from the content issues somewhat
- 13:56:26 From Christopher Martin : really neat ideas and discussion. Thanks everyone.
- 13:58:16 From Benjamin Hill (he/him) : @Lewis--but you can make their personhood the focus, and I am intending to do that with my Early Modern Women Philosophers course. And that's part of the theme itself by connecting it to political and personal liberty. Amo is a racialized voice that can be fit to the more canonical tradition but I'm interested in exploring other threads through the period. Thanks!
- 13:59:39 From Lewis Powell : @Benjamin, right, you can, for sure (Lucrezia Marinella is a great figure if you want to fully center it, but also the stuff on education works well, and all sorts of other stuff), but I think representation issues are separate from content issues, and it is good to know whether they are separable
- 13:59:40 From Benjamin Hill (he/him) : Here's a link to the Marshall and Sreedhar text, which I've recently chosen to go with:
<https://www.routledge.com/A-New-Modern-Philosophy-The-Inclusive-Anthology-of-Primary-Sources/Marshall-Sreedhar/p/book/9781138484344>

13:59:41 From Jan-Erik Jones : The Leibniz/Locke 'debate' in the NE does open the door to a discussion of personhood that makes the moral and political components natural items for discussion.

14:00:52 From Alberto Luis L. : I understand Cristopher's concerns and, to some extent, I share them, but I also believe that to show all the picture (for instance, what philosophers say about racism) could be interesting for students.

14:00:53 From Benjamin Hill (he/him) : @Jan-Erik, nice point. I wish I had a few more weeks in my terms!

14:02:11 From Lewis Powell : (I know that I would be very glad for ways to include more representational diversity, but I would be somewhat nervous doing so if the only way to do that was to spend a unit critiquing bad arguments being offered for why some groups of people weren't as worthwhile as others, especially if I am not in the group, and people in the class are

14:02:32 From Lewis Powell : Though that doesn't mean it can't be done well, or that it isn't worth doing)

