

The Issue at a Glance

ARTICLES

Themes in Academic Literature: Prejudice and Social Justice

Daniel Rozado, Otago Polytechnic

Despite a marked decline in prejudicial attitudes among the public at large, a survey of 175 million scholarly articles published over the last five decades has found a sharp spike in words denoting prejudice and social justice themes beginning in 2010 and lasting at least through the first few months of 2020, a pattern observed within news media content as well.

Critical Race Theory in Six Logical Fallacies

Douglas Groothuis, Denver Seminary

Logical fallacies, according to philosopher Douglas Groothuis, “are the bane of critical thinking.” Ironic, then, that Critical Race Theory is full of them.

The Lived Experience Fallacy

Timothy Hsiao, University of Arkansas Grantham

Professor Timothy Hsiao has noticed a pronounced inclination among college students to accept personal experience as the basis for determining political beliefs. But personal anecdotes do not invalidate statistical generalizations. This basic rule of statistical reasoning seems to have been lost on people who should know better.

The Faith of Science

John Staddon, Duke University

It is an old but wise truism, says psychologist John Staddon, that the “facts of science cannot provide a set of values by which to live.” But when the motives and values necessary to sustain it are strongly reinforced, science can be a guide for living a moral life.

Confronting Woke Groupthink in Art Education

Michelle Marder Kamhi, Aristos, an online review of the arts

For the crimes of challenging the National Arts Education Association's rigid adherence to Critical Race Theory, transgender ideology, and "systemic racism," as well as for questioning the assumption that art teachers are morally obliged to be "actively antiracist," art critic Michelle Marder Kamhi has been booted from the NAEA Collaborate Community.

Three Public Philosophies and Some Implications

James W. Springer, author of Repatriation and Erasing the Past (2020)

James Springer posits that three public philosophies have been predominant in the modern world. All three have advantages and disadvantages, but only one ensures the objective study of science and humanity.

What, After Speech Is Free, Shall We Say?

Michael Platt, author of Mighty Opposites: Machiavelli and Shakespeare Match Wits (2021)

The over-specialization of academic disciplines, the decline of core curricula, deference to student sentiment, administrative overreach, and restrictions on speech have erased the university's role in fostering the great humanistic conversations vital to self-governance.

The Spectacular Success Story of Sir Ernest Wallis Budge

Geoffrey Clarfield

A pivotal figure in the field of Egyptology, Assyriology, and biblical studies, Sir Ernest Wallis Budge was an illegitimate child of the Victorian age who succeeded against the odds. Today he is castigated by archeologists anxious to distance their field from its imperialist birth.

Code Red for the Arts

Carol Iannone, National Association of Scholars

An absorbing and bittersweet film from the 1990s speaks to tyranny’s hatred of the arts, the timelessness of great music, the universality of beauty, and the lie of “cultural appropriation.”

ACADEMIC LEVITY

Equity in Mathematics

Steven Schwartzman

Math teacher Steven Schwartzman explains that the equity activists have set their sights on mathematics, condemning the marginalization of whole numbers labelled “odd.”

REVIEW ESSAY

Cormac McCarthy: Conservative Novelist

Alexander Riley, Bucknell University

Where some critics see only dystopia and misanthropy in the violent novels of Cormac McCarthy, sociologist Alexander Riley notices a “distinct moral core” in McCarthy’s best-known fiction, drawing from both conservative and Christian values.

SHORT TAKE

Rape and Sexual Misconduct at Universities

Walter Block, Loyola University

Sexual harassment is a serious offense with unique characteristics that make the determination of guilt especially difficult. Economist Walter Block asks why, then, on college campuses “is this crucially important task undertaken by university faculty members,” few of whom have any experience in civic and criminal investigation?

IN MEMORIAM

Midge Decter (1927-2022)

Thomas L. Jeffers, Marquette University (emeritus)

A trenchant culture warrior and a warm and lively raconteur, author Midge Decter leaves us with a cache of incisive criticism to guide us in this decisive cultural moment.

No Midge, No NAS: A Tribute to Midge Decter

Steve Balch, National Association of Scholars (founding president)

Among the many intellectual luminaries who helped birth the National Association of Scholars, Midge Decter was “The One.”