

4:00 pm Wednesday 21 June 2006

COSMOPOLITANISM AS VIRTUE

Stan van Hooff

This paper explores cosmopolitanism, not as a position within political philosophy or international relations, but as a virtuous stance taken by individuals who see their responsibilities as extending globally. Taking as its cue some recent writing by Kwame Anthony Appiah, it argues for a number of virtues that are inherent in, and required by, such a stance. It is critical of what it sees as a limited scope in Appiah's conception and enriches it with Nigel Dower's concept of 'global citizenship'. It then seeks to overcome a distinction that Appiah draws between a 'thin' moral conception of justice and a 'thick' ethical conception of our obligations to those with whom we have identity-forming relationships. It argues that a richer conception of the virtue of justice, as suggested by Raimond Gaita, can fully articulate the ideals of cosmopolitanism.

Stan van Hooff is an Associate Professor in Philosophy on the Melbourne campus of Deakin University. He is the author of *Caring: An Essay in the Philosophy of Ethics*, (Niwot, University Press of Colorado, 1995) and numerous journal articles on moral philosophy, bioethics, business ethics, and on the nature of health and disease. He is also a co-author of *Facts and Values: An Introduction to Critical Thinking for Nurses*, (Sydney, MacLennan and Petty, 1995). *His Life, Death, and Subjectivity: Moral Sources for Bioethics*, was published by Rodopi (Amsterdam and New York) in 2004. Stan published two further books in 2006: *Caring about Health*, (Aldershot, Ashgate), and *Understanding Virtue Ethics*, (Chesham, Acumen Publishers).

**There is no entry charge and everyone is welcome.
Drinks and nibbles will be provided.**

The Arts Meeting Room, Building C, Room C2.05.01, Burwood Campus