

the Laws of the Union, [and to] suppress Insurrections”; Congress even retains the power to prescribe the militia’s training. Curiously, Williams gives scant attention to Article II, which imposes a clear chain of command: the “President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the militia of the United States, when called into the actual service of the United States”. Nothing in the Second Amendment repeals any of this federal authority. We are left to ask, what does it mean to “keep and bear arms” in modern American culture? Williams tells us who “the people” are, but his interpretation sidesteps important questions about this revised contemporary meaning, if any, of the Second Amendment.

Williams would likely deem this interpretation another myth-bound reading. His main point is that we cannot arrive at a singular understanding of the Second Amendment as long as the nation lacks a true civic culture, a Body of the People. *The Mythic Meanings of the Second Amendment* will itself be considered a piece of mythology by dedicated members of the gun culture as well as advocates of gun control. For students of public policy, however, Williams brings a great deal of scholarly research to bear on a maddeningly contentious debate. The book will find a home among constitutional lawyers and academics, and in political theory courses that explore the philosophy of public life. More important, perhaps, is the book’s approach to public policy debates. Williams’ theory of social fragmentation explains why activists on both sides of the argument cannot understand each other, let alone resolve their differences. A deep exploration of intellectual origins and contemporary meaning makes Williams’ research a valuable contribution to this difficult social question.

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Coping in Politics with Indeterminate Norms: A Theory of Enlightened Localism

Gregg Benjamin; State University of New York Press, Albany, 2003, 210 pp.

If norms are the social rules of organized society, how can social, political and legal equity be possible in the liberal realm of indeterminate norms? *Coping in Politics with Indeterminate Norms* is a commentary and investigation about the multiplicity and complexity of norms in social critique, public policy, law and morality. By competently arguing that morals and culture are relative and individually situated; Benjamin Gregg combines proceduralism and pragmatism to promote social integration and democratic practices.

The result is Gregg’s theory of enlightened localism which navigates competing norms by utilizing the local perspective to combat assumed universal “truths.” Enlightened localism is not to be confused with the essentializing aspects of postmodernism nor the confinement of parochialism. Instead, Gregg offers unique and interdisciplinary perspective on the political and legal undercarriage of norms. He reveals just how indefinite and relational norms really

are. Rather than denying the existence of normative indeterminacy, Gregg shows us how we can cope harmoniously with difference and the gray area of politics that norms represent. The book paints a picture of how nonauthoritarian politics are possible through fluid normative meanings and local applications. Specifically, that if we embrace the indeterminacy of norms and their power in social critique, public policy and law then we can have healthy and holistic and contextualized public affairs guiding day-to-day interactions.

The book is organized into six broad chapters with a coda as a summary chapter. Chapters one through three lay the foundation for Gregg's argument that a historically situated theory of indeterminacy in norms is necessary to the study of social life. Chapters four, five, and six provide the building blocks for the theory of enlightened localism by presenting and critiquing the theoretical frameworks of proceduralism, relativism, pragmatism, and postmodernism. Finally, in the coda, Gregg discusses the possibilities for a culture of social cooperation without the presence of definite political unity.

The theoretical approach of the book is to advocate for an enlightened localism regarding social norms. Such a theory may be used epistemically regarding laws, public policy and all that is political. Further, enlightened localism is useful normatively for the action of social critique. Gregg offers the reader a theory that imbricates knowledge and politics. He does so to provide a grounding and constraint on the indeterminacy of social life. Methodologically, the book follows rational social critique by presenting case law and historical political references to assess injustice and promote fairness. By using critique to see where we have been morally, legally and politically in the U.S., Gregg uncovers the multitude of competing values and norms on subjects such as racial civil rights, feminism, citizenship and war. The benefit of this method is that recognizing our diverse past, we may have a clearer vision of indeterminate norms in the future.

Gregg writes in a Faulknerian fashion of leading the reader down uncertain paths with long narratives and juxtapositions of thought. *Coping in Politics with Indeterminate Norms* is not a page turner or fast reader. Rather, it is a careful mixing of theory and "facts" that provides the reader with the substance necessary to marinate the concept of norms and how they are complexly embedded in our daily lives. The book presents a wonderful collection of theory, scholarship and history related to norms and normative behaviors and institutions in the modern era. Gregg is not demanding the dissolution of public institutions and practices supposedly based upon definite morals and universally accepted norms. Instead, he proposes that we open ourselves up to the indeterminacy of social relationships and public rules. It is through "coping" with normative indeterminacy that our pluralistic subjectivity may be recognized and democratic policies are actualized.

Gregg recognized a need, a gap in the literature and scholarship on norms and he cobbled a theory to fit. He saw the social world as congested with no clear and concise, rational and finite knowledge base pertaining to norms and social justice. *Coping in Politics with Indeterminate Norms* is a well-organized and thoughtful book on a dynamic topic for democratic politics and institutions. The book blends theoretical and empirical accounts of norms in public life and addresses many of the problems passed by earlier micro theories on the subject.

However, suggesting a macro theory for such a subjective area as norms is a messy and muddled venture. Gregg dedicates so much of the book to explaining what his theory is not, that it is difficult at times to see what enlightened localism is. Further, to cope with indeterminate

norms one must be aware that norms are relative and local. For many, this is a luxury available only to elites and theorists. We live in a capitalistic world of specialists and immediate needs. There are many times when the command center of social rules must act authoritatively and non-democratically. If decision makers are asked to function within vivid indeterminacy, what will the basis for their normative actions become?

For example, on the one hand, at the practitioner level of law and public policy it may not be functionally feasible nor desirable to recognize the indeterminacy of norms. Especially when dealing with issues of social justice, a practitioner must find agreement upon acceptable and unacceptable social practices. However, on the other hand, public policies and laws are applied universally while reviewed with contextual relevancy. It is within this space of jurisprudence and interpretation that enlightened localism may play an important role.

Benjamin Gregg has thrown down the gauntlet on the evolution theory regarding norms in society and within our personal worlds. Such a meaningful and worthwhile endeavor such as this requires careful and methodical reasoning with an appreciation and trust that the author is not simply replacing multiple dogmas with a singular dogma. Therefore, this book is recommended for the social theory enthusiast and for the graduate student trying to make sense of it all. *Coping in Politics with Indeterminate Norms* is not a text for practitioners nor the general public. It is, however, quite applicable to graduate level classes and professors in the fields of Political Science, Sociology, Social Psychology, Public Administration, Law: Social Justice, Public Policy and Social Theory. The text is an in depth analysis of proceduralism, pragmatism, behavioralism, postmodern, post-structuralism and organizational theory; therefore, in order to glean understanding from the book, the reader must possess a proficient understanding of political, social, and legal thought and inquiry.

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Religious Fundamentalism in the Contemporary World: Critical, Social and Political Issues

Santosh C. Saha (Ed.); Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2004, 340 pages.

The events of September 11, 2001, changed the world's political and social climate forever and spun off a number of books dealing with religious fundamentalism and particularly Islamic fundamentalism. This is certainly not to suggest that fundamentalism in religion is to be found solely among the followers of the Prophet Mohammed. Strict interpretation of Scripture is to be seen world-wide and is found in religious sects of all major religions. The Kabbalistic movement among Jewish Orthodox groups is one example; another perspective of religious

Enlightened Localism: Indeterminate Law and its Pragmatist Jurisprudence. Religious and Receptive Coping Importance for the Well-Being of Christian Outpatients and Parishioners. Margreet R. de Vries-Schot, Joseph Z. T. Pieper & Marinus H. F. van Uden - 2012 - Archive for the Psychology of Religion 34 (2):173-189. Enlightened Cherishing: An Essay on Aesthetic Education. Harry S. Broudy - 1994 - University of Illinois Press. Vagueness Without Ignorance. Find many great new & used options and get the best deals for Coping in Politics with Indeterminate Norms: A Theory of Enlightened Localism by Benjamin Gregg (Paperback, 2003) at the best online prices at eBay! Free delivery for many products! The modern world is distinguished by both its complexity and the absence of a single theory, principle, or tradition with the authority to constrain us. The theory is applied to three empirical domains: social criticism, public policy, and law and morality. Read full description. See details and exclusions - Coping in Politics with Indeterminate Norms: A Theory of Enlightened Localism. See all 7 brand new listings. Qty. >Perspectives on Politics. >Volume 2 Issue 3. >Coping in Politics with Indeterminate Norms: A Theory English Français. Perspectives on Politics. Article contents. Extract. Coping in Politics with Indeterminate Norms: A Theory of Enlightened Localism. Published online by Cambridge University Press: 01 September 2004. Contra postmodernists (and certain adherents of Critical Legal Studies), Gregg rejects the claim that the indeterminacy of norms correlates with the loss of autonomy, on the one hand, and universality, on the other (pp. 78-82). Type. Book reviews: political theory. Information. Perspectives on Politics , Volume 2 , Issue 3 , September 2004 , pp. 570 - 571. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592704260376>[Opens in a new window]. Copyright. Download Citation | Coping in Politics with Indeterminate Norms: A Theory of Enlightened Localism | Coping in Politics with Indeterminate Norms: A Theory of Enlightened Localism. By Benjamin Gregg. Albany: State University of New York Press not preclude the possibility of singular norms that adjudicate between different local traditions (p. 86). Contra postmodernists (and certain adherents of Critical Legal Studies), Gregg rejects the claim that the indeterminacy of norms correlates with the loss of autonomy, on the one hand, and universality, on the other (pp. 78-82). Discover the world's research. 19+ million members. This paper seeks to examine the relation between Kant's aesthetic theory and the philosophy of Enlightenment. Coping in Politics With Indeterminate Norms: A Theory of Enlightened Localism (Suny Series in Political Theory: Contemporary Issues; Suny Series in in Radical Social and Political Theory) Paperback € 17 Jul 2003. by Benjamin Greenwood Gregg (Author). His own position uniquely joins diverse disciplinary approaches to show that a pragmatic, enlightened localism need not mean parochialism, narrow-mindedness, and the like. Tightly argued and often provocative, his position makes perfect sense." Synopsis.