William Scheuerman
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“Civil Disobedience”

Friday, February 16, 2018
12:00–2:00 p.m.
Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park

In his new book, William Scheuerman systematically analyzes the most important interpretations of civil disobedience. Drawing out the striking differences separating religious, liberal, radical democratic, and anarchist views, he nonetheless shows that core commonalities remain. Against those who water down the idea of civil disobedience or view it as obsolescent, Scheuerman tries to salvage its central elements. The concept of civil disobedience, he argues, remains a pivotal tool for anyone hoping to bring about political and social change.

Scheuerman’s book (Polity Press, 2018) will be critically discussed by Maeve Cooke (University of Dublin, Ireland) and Jeffrey Isaac (Indiana University). Scheuerman will then respond.

William Scheuerman is professor of political science and international studies at IU. His primary research and teaching interests are in modern political thought, German political thought, democratic theory, legal theory, and international political theory.

Maeve Cooke is professor of philosophy at University College Dublin, Ireland, and a member of the Royal Irish Academy. Her current research interests centre on the relation between freedom and authority, with a specific focus on questions of democratic dissent and political violence. Her principal book publications are Language and Reason: A Study of Habermas’s Pragmatics (MIT Press, 1994) and Re-Presenting the Good Society (MIT Press, 2006).

Jeffrey Isaac is the James H. Rudy Professor in the Department of Political Science at IU. Professor Isaac’s research is in the area of political theory, broadly understood.

Presentations are open to the public and are live streamed (see our website for URL). You are welcome to bring your lunch. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu; 812/855–3151).