



# Realistic Justice

## 3

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# Overview

1. How to proceed from equality of reciprocity?
2. Reciprocity as a springboard
3. Classical reasons for just inequality

## 1. How to proceed from reciprocity?

### Reciprocity 1

Members are self-interested & fair in reciprocating

### Reciprocity 2

Members are self-interested & **have a need of social recognition** & fair in reciprocating

### Reciprocity 3

Members are self-interested & have a need of social recognition **which is critically structured by reasons** & fair in reciprocating

## 1. How to proceed from reciprocity?

### **Need of social recognition**

#### **Individuality condition**

Interest to be accepted as an individual person

#### **Life condition**

Interest to have a right to live

#### **Sociality condition**

Interest to be involved in social exchange.

Question 1: When will these interests be met?

Question 2: What is the moral import of these interests?

## 1. How to proceed from reciprocity?

### Need of social recognition

#### When will these interests be met?

If:

1. Collectivity prioritizing beliefs (nationalist, religious, familial, philosophical) are destructed by critical reasoning.
2. Self-interest is not stronger than meeting interests 1-3
3. Most individuals are able to play a productive role within social exchange = cooperation.

## 1. How to proceed from reciprocity?

### Need of social recognition

#### What is the moral import of these interest?

- Different to **self**-interest a need for social recognition is an interest in (the role of) **others**.
- Interest in others not a purely instrumental interest, because others have to **esteem**. This presupposes mutuality of value.
- Interests secure a basic security within social relationships (different to pure cooperation)
- **But: Need of social recognition is malleable by reasons for justice**

## 2. Reciprocity as a springboard

### Why is the need for recognition malleable?

- People are self-reflective and self-critical
- Reciprocity: A normally has a reason for doing x and accepts B having a reason doing y.
- A accepts an unequal treatment **if** he accepts a **reason** for it.

**Question:** What are relevant/acceptable reasons for inequality?

**Answer:** (necessary but not sufficient) All reasons that are fair in the sense of reciprocity: if B gives A a reason for unequal treatment which he himself accepts in a relevant situation

**Conclusion:** Reasons for and against equal treatment **extend** the sense of one's need for recognition. (Sufficient reasons have to found.)

### 3. Classical reasons for just inequality

#### Recognition of others under viewpoints of:

- Priority of **freedom**: all have to be free and if other reasons conflict with freedom, they are neutralized.
- Priority of **self-responsibility**: Personal properties and conditions you are not responsible for have to be socially corrected
- Priority of maximizing **individual welfare** under condition of **fairness** (= veil of ignorance)

#### These are

- Libertarianism – equality in freedom and only in freedom
- Equality of opportunity – equality in opportunity
- Rawls – equality in choosing for our unknown fate



### 3. Classical reasons for just inequality

#### How to proceed from here?

- Describe a social situation according to each position
- See what it means in its clear and hidden consequences under each principle
- Evaluate it by help of reference to our psychological abilities: would we like to live in such a social situation?