Rawls Contemporaneity: the Balance between Normativity and Political Context

Abstract: Political Liberalism justificatory model faces intrinsic tensions within its theoretical framework. The attempt to deliver a strictly political account of liberalism gives rise to a dilemma between two aspects of the justificatory procedure. On the one hand, the justificatory procedure should provide normative arguments for granting the acceptability of the principles of justice. On the other hand, in order to reach an acceptance of the principles by the actual members of the constituency, it is essential to focus on the actual circumstances of justice, therefore looking at less idealized justificatory procedures. My proposal is to clearly distinguish between the justificatory goals of the ideal and non-ideal phases of a Rawlsian-revisited paradigm. I claim that this strategy avoids dilemmatic outcomes, meanwhile maintaining the richness and nuanced perspective of the Rawlsian general model.

Keywords: Political legitimacy, Stability, Reasonableness, Ideal and non-ideal theory, Epistemic authority.