

Dr Matt BEECH

Director, Centre for British Politics, University of Hull
IES Senior Fellow, UC Berkeley

Free Speech, Marxism, and the Culture War

In this paper I argue that the most vital arena of contestation in the Culture War is the battle over publicly acceptable speech. Speech is necessarily a social and a negotiated thing; it is subject to adaptation, technical innovation, and changing mores. Nevertheless, the foundations of free speech in the West are predicated on established theological, political, and constitutional traditions. For orthodox conservatives (and others rooted in the Western school) such traditions define our sense of self and home; and are sacred, therefore worth defending. The principal agents of cultural attack are individuals and groups steeped (both consciously and unconsciously) in cultural forms of Marxist ideology and post-modern thought. Without resisting such attempts at doublethink and Newspeak, there is no guarantee that meetings like this, and all other serious work in the humanities and social sciences will meaningfully survive.

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