

Reading Questions for March 25

These questions cover a reading by Celia Wolf-Devine called “Preferential Policies Have Become Toxic.” The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read more than once to get the answers.

*Background:*

On Monday we read an article in favor of affirmative action; today we’re reading one opposed to it. In today’s article, Celia Wolf-Devine spends first argues that the arguments in favor of affirmative action for latinos and women are worse than the arguments in favor of affirmative action for African Americans. She then criticizes a bunch of different arguments in favor of affirmative action for African Americans. She then discusses some alternate ways to accomplish the goals of those who promote affirmative action.

*Questions:*

1. What is Wolf-Devine’s main point in her section “Disentangling Race and Sex” (143-4) and how does she argue for it? Is what she has to say plausible?
2. On pages 144-147, Wolf-Devine criticizes backward-looking arguments for affirmative action. How do these arguments work? What are her criticisms of these arguments? Are her criticisms plausible?
3. On pages 147-148, Wolf-Devine criticizes forward-looking arguments for affirmative action. How do these arguments work? What are her criticisms of these arguments? Are her criticisms plausible?
4. In her final two sections (pages 149-52), Wolf-Devine looks at other ways to accomplish the goals of affirmative action. What other ways does she suggest and what are some advantages she finds in these other ways? Is what she has to say plausible?