

## Balvant Parekh Distinguished Lecture 2018

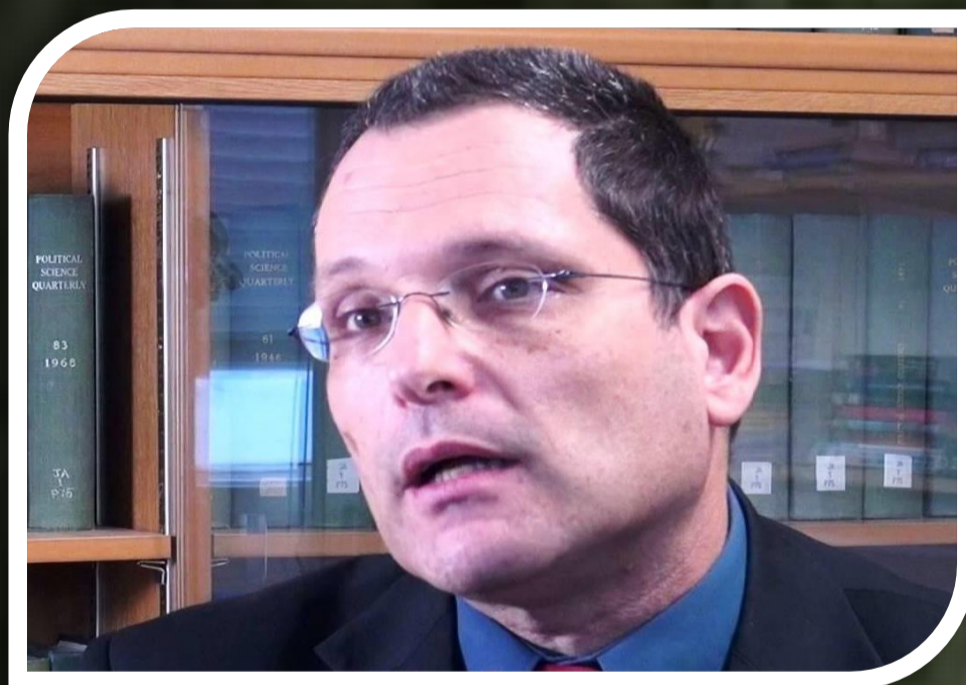
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### Topic of the Lecture:

**“Multiculturalism in Liberal Democracies: The Bounds of Intervention in Practices of Minority Cultures”**

### Summary of the Lecture:

One of the most pressing issues facing liberal democracies today is the politicization of ethnocultural diversity. Minority cultures are demanding greater public recognition of their distinctive identities, and greater freedom and opportunity to retain and develop their distinctive cultural practices. In response to these demands, new and creative mechanisms are being adopted in many countries for accommodating difference. This talk discusses some of the issues raised by these demands, focusing in particular on the difficulties that arise when the minority seeking accommodation is illiberal. Pertinent questions include: How are these group rights related to individual rights?; What should we do if group rights come into conflict with individual rights?; Can a liberal democracy allow minority groups to restrict the individual rights of their members, or should it insist that all groups uphold liberal principles?



**Speaker:** Raphael Cohen-Almagor, Chair in Politics at the University of Hull, United Kingdom

**Date and Time:** Tuesday, 16 January 2018 at 5 pm

**Venue:** Balvant Parekh Centre for General Semantics and Other Human Sciences, Vadodara.

### About the Speaker

Raphael Cohen-Almagor is Chair in Politics at the University of Hull, United Kingdom, and Director of the Middle East Study Group. In 2008-2009 he served as Acting Deputy Dean for Research at Hull Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Dr. Cohen-Almagor received his D. Phil. in political theory from Oxford University. He has taught at the Law Faculty of Hebrew University, the University of Haifa Law School, and the Department of Communication, and Library and Information Studies, University of Haifa. He has served in such capacities as: Chairperson of “The Second Generation to the Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Organization” in Israel; Founder and Director of the Medical Ethics Think-tank at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute; member of the Israel Press Council, Chairperson of Library and Information Studies, and Founder and Director of Center for Democratic Studies at the University of Haifa. Cohen-Almagor was the Yitzhak Rabin - Fulbright Visiting Professor at UCLA School of Law and Dept. of Communication, Visiting Professor at Johns Hopkins University, and Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

Professor Cohen-Almagor has published numerous articles and book chapters in the fields of political science, law, Israel studies, philosophy, media ethics, medical ethics, education, sociology and history. Some of his publications include: *Middle Eastern Shores* (1993); *The Boundaries of Liberty and Tolerance* (1994); *Speech, Media and Ethics* (2001); *The Right to Die with Dignity* (2001); *Euthanasia in the Netherlands* (2004, 2005); *The Scope of Tolerance* (2006, 2007); *The Democratic Catch* (2007); *Voyages* (2007); and *Confronting the Internet's Dark Side: Moral and Social Responsibility on the Free Highway* (2015). Since 2000, he has been writing a monthly blog on Israeli politics, human rights concerns, scientific developments, the arts and other issues. The Blog, has more than 1000 subscribers in some thirty countries and was quoted by *The Washington Post*, *The Ottawa Citizen*, *The Baltimore Sun*, among other newspapers. Dr. Cohen-Almagor is on the editorial and advisory boards of such journals as *Ethical Space: International Journal of Communication Ethics*; *European Journal of Analytic Philosophy*; *Science and Engineering Ethics*; and *Pain & Therapy*.