Cycling, non-domination and “the freedom of the city”: a republican account

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In the poem:

• I identify a situation as wrong

• I politicise that wrong and seek to identify it as social injustice

• I frame that injustice in terms of a Republic and what it should mean to live in a Republic

• In referring to a Republic, I seek to mobilise sentiments associated with ideals that have a broad appeal
Axel Honnith (2014): Freedom’s Right

• Argues that social arrangements in a particular arena need to reflect more widely held perspectives, values, norms and sentiments

• A justice case needs to be framed in these terms

• Arguments for justice are predicated on matters of freedom

• Identifies:
  • Negative freedom
  • Reflexive freedom
  • Social freedom
Robert Nozick (1972): Anarchy, State and Utopia

• Freedom as a natural and primary right
• Imagining of a state of nature, a non-societal human world
• Physical threat as the sole justification for a state
• A minimal state organised for “protective association”
• Freedom as non-interference but informed by the harm principle
• A basis for protection of “vulnerable road users”
• Yet the road is often experienced as a state of nature
• And an emphasis on negative freedoms camouflages the social nature of road use
JUST FREEDOM
A MORAL COMPASS FOR A COMPLEX WORLD

Philip Pettit
Non-domination

• A fundamental and “gateway” good
• Freedom presupposes society
• A republican vision
• Equality “before” and “over” the law
Depth and breadth of freedom

• Choices need to be actually available
• Choices made regardless of preferences of others
• Range of choices need to be available
• Require public resources and protection
• A matter of common awareness
• Norms as well as laws

apasciuto: Ocean
Basic liberties

• Range of choice types

• In areas like thought, speech, leisure, travel, education, health, religion, association, employment

• Need to be co-enjoyable

• Vary somewhat according to societal context

• Guaranteed by state and supported through norms

• Liberty of movement qualifies as a basic liberty but not liberty of car use
Expressive egalitarianism

• "The republican approach strongly supports expressive egalitarianism. In this tradition, the ideal of the free citizen requires a civic status that enables each to stand on an equal footing with others. Such a status can be established only under a state that treats all its members as equals and only under a culture in which people are each prepared to accept such treatment and to claim no special privileges." (Pettit 2014. p.80)

• The “freedom of the city”: an ideal in support of mobility justice?