

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

4pm in 41 Haldeman

[Lidal Dror, Princeton University](#)

"Ignorance of and Indifference to the Deaths of Select Others"

Abstract: "While much concern has rightfully been expressed for Ukrainian civilians suffering as a result of the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian War, many have noted that the level of concern expressed for Ukrainians exceeds that expressed for civilians, particularly non-white civilians, who die in other conflicts. This talk attempts to offer an explanation of the disparate concern Westerners have for civilians who die in different wars abroad. I consider two attempts to explain the disparate concern in terms of racism; first a more interpersonal understanding of racism as racist animus, and then a more structural explanation in terms of 'white ignorance'. I ultimately argue that trying to understand the disparate concern evinced for different civilian casualties primarily in terms of racism is mistaken, and that an adequate explanation of Western attitudes must be grounded on an account of imperialist interests."

Part of the Philosophy Department's Race, Gender, and Justice lecture series. For more information, please visit: <https://philosophy.dartmouth.edu/menufeature/news-events/lecture-series/race-gender-and-justice-lecture-series>

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