



Philosophie, Ethik für Sek II

## Filosofix

5. Veil of ignorance

3:11 Minuten

- 00:06** The richest Swiss who make up just less than 1% of the population – hold almost half the wealth of all Swiss people together.
- 00:15** In Switzerland, the chance that the child of an academic will go to university is 1.5 times higher than that of a child of non-academic parents.
- 00:25** In Switzerland, women earn an average of 20% less than men for the same job.
- 00:34** Is that just? How would a world have to be created to ensure real justice?
- 00:41** Just imagine that you, along with others, can decide how a just society should look.
- 00:48** What goods will you distribute, and how?
- 00:57** Who has what rights?
- 01:00** Who will get the top job that only one person can have?
- 01:03** What is fair pay?  
You discuss and discuss and design a fair world.
- 01:10** So that your decisions remain impartial and you don't design a state for your own benefit you must wear a blindfold, a veil of ignorance.
- 01:20** Behind the blindfold, what you do not know is:
- Will I be a woman or a man?  
Will I grow up in a well-to-do academic family or as the child of poor immigrants?  
Do I live in a city, or in the countryside?  
Without or with children?  
Am I sporty, or not really?  
Religious or atheist?
- 01:56** No idea!
- 01:59** You set the rules of the game but will not know what position you will later have to play in it.
- 02:05** Under the circumstances you will agree on a few principles that make for a just society.
- 02:12** That's what John Rawls, the inventor of this thought experiment thinks.

- 02:16** He believes that, behind the “veil of ignorance”, you will opt for a society in which the person who is worst off is doing as well as possible, because you might find yourself in that position. And according to the so-called 'difference principle', inequality can be fair if it benefits those who have least.
- 02:38** In other words, the CEO of a major bank can pay himself a huge salary with a clear conscience, providing the staff at the counter also earn more.
- 02:50** You can't argue against inequality – as long as everyone benefits from it.
- 02:56** Is that true?  
What is just?