

## JUNE 12, 2019 OFFENSIPHOBIA IS A RED HERRING

## **Dr Louise Richardson-Self**

Abstract: In a recent article in "The Journal of Ethics", J. Angelo Corlett (2018) offers a critique of what he calls 'offensiphobia': the belief that people have a right not to be offended. We will argue that offensiphobia doesn't really exist in higher educational institutions. We wish to demonstrate that the term 'offensiphobia' is not only misleading, but ideological. It conflates hate speech with offense, and in so doing implies that hate speech cannot seriously harm its targets (beyond those forms of speech already unprotected by the First Amendment). This failure of recognition may even constitute a form of willful ignorance.

Dr Richardson-Self is a lecturer in Philosophy and Gender Studies at the University of Tasmania. Sponsored by the Exeter Centre for Political Thought

**Building One: Matrix Lecture Theatre** 

16:00-17:30

All welcome.

ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH SARAH DREWS LUCAS.

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