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Freedom in Education: A Philosophical Critique of Current Conflicts in Educational Policy

Parents and guardians are naturally concerned about what their children are taught in schools. Some lament what they feel is a lack of control over curricula and what are thought to be forces or agendas that they believe are not in kids' best interests. The arguments advanced in recent conflicts take two main forms. The first, advanced in similar fashion on opposing sides of issues concerning gender and early education, takes the form of arguments to "protect" children. The second, typically arising in discourse about desire for exclusion or selection of curricular messages or content, typically focuses on parents' rights, in particular, to freedom of choice, whether regarding selection of schools, book banning, or inclusion or exclusion of desired or undesirable subject matters from curricula. In this talk, Dr. Weber will defend the importance of students' and teachers' freedom and challenge the overreach of dominant parental views that seek to silence the lived experiences and concerns of marginalized groups.

Friday, November 17, 2023
at 5:00 pm,
COE, Room 164
An Informal Reception to Follow