The Prime Directive in Our Times: Challenges to Understanding a Multicultural World

Date: Monday, November 14, 2016
Time: 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM
Location: Williams Family Room, Davis Center

How can we retain the principle of respect for other cultures and yet be true to our own moral certainties?

Fifty years ago the first Star Trek episode was broadcast. This broadly optimistic view of the future of humanity featured the advantages of a multiethnic, yet integrated crew whose only intercultural difficulties were with inhabitants of ‘strange new worlds’, encounters with whom were guided by the Prime Directive, a strict prohibition against interfering with the natural cultural development of the society in question.

The reluctance to judge or intervene in the behaviors and beliefs of cultures other than our own has been the cornerstone of the multicultural conversation in our own times, but this cultural relativism is coming under increasing strain as people struggle to respond appropriately to such seemingly objectionable practices as child marriage, female circumcision, caste discrimination, and all forms of perceived social injustice.

Presentation Open to the Community

For UVM faculty, staff, students and community.

If you have any questions, contact The UVM Center for Cultural Pluralism at 656-8833 or email ccpuvm@uvm.edu

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Co-sponsored by Office of the Vice President for Human Resources, Diversity & Multicultural Affairs and Diversity, Engagement & Professional Development Unit