



Valuing Diversity: Buddhist Reflection on Realizing a More Equitable Global Future

Peter D. Hershock

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Uses Buddhist philosophy to discuss diversity as a value, one that can contribute to equity in a globalizing world.

Diversity matters. Whether in the context of ecosystems, education, the workplace, or politics, diversity is now recognized as a fact and as something to be positively affirmed. But what is the value of diversity? What explains its increasing significance? *Valuing Diversity* is a groundbreaking response to these questions and to the contemporary global dynamics that make them so salient.

Peter D. Hershock examines the changes of the last century to show how the successes of Western-style modernity and industrially-powered markets have, ironically, coupled progressive integration and interdependence with the proliferation of political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental differences. Global predicaments like climate change and persistent wealth inequalities compel recognition that we are in the midst of an era-defining shift from the primacy of the technical to that of the ethical. Yet, neither modern liberalism nor its postmodern critiques have offered the resources needed to address such challenges.

Making use of Buddhist and ecological insights, *Valuing Diversity* develops a qualitatively rich conception of diversity as an emerging value and global relational commons, forwarding an ethics of interdependence and responsive virtuosity that opens prospects for a paradigm shift in our pursuits of equity, freedom, and democratic justice.

“...Hershock has written an important book. The book impressively achieves its primary aim: to show why diversity poses one of the greatest challenges of our time, and to begin laying the philosophical/conceptual groundwork for a global future where diversity is indeed deeply valued.” — *Journal of Value Inquiry*

Peter D. Hershock is Director of the Asian Studies Development Program at the East-West Center in Honolulu. He has published several books, including *Buddhism in the Public Sphere: Reorienting Global Interdependence* and *Reinventing the Wheel: A Buddhist Response to the Information Age*, also published by SUNY Press.

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