

VU Research Portal

Democracy without Secularism: A Pragmatist Critique of Habermas

Mullin, D.M

2012

document version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link to publication in VU Research Portal](#)

citation for published version (APA)

Mullin, D. M. (2012). *Democracy without Secularism: A Pragmatist Critique of Habermas*. [PhD-Thesis – Research external, graduation internal, VU University Amsterdam and ICS, Canada].

General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

E-mail address:

vuresearchportal.ub@vu.nl

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	iv
Introduction: Charting the Territory	1
Chapter 1: Modernity and Its Discontents	16
Exploring the Secularization Thesis	19
Preliminary Objections to Religious Discourse in Public	27
Secularization and the Public Sphere: A Historical Excursus	41
Habermas on the Rise of the Public Sphere in England	46
Rethinking the Secularity of the Public Sphere in the Modern Period	59
Secularization: So What Happened?	74
Chapter 2: Competing Narratives of Secularization: Habermas and Taylor	81
Secularization as Disenchantment: Empirical and Normative Aspects	83
Secularization, Postsecular Society and the Translation Requirement	89
Taylor's Phenomenology of Secularism	105
Rethinking the Translation Requirement	121
Chapter 3: Habermas vis-à-vis Rawls on Religion in the Public Sphere: Promissory	
Notes or Cognitive Contents?	151
Religion and the Public Sphere: Habermas and Rawls	155
Habermas's Institutional Translation Proviso	165
A Proposed Revision to the ITP	180
Contestable Premises, Comprehensive Evidence, and Immanent Critique	185
Balancing Burdens: The Pragmatics of Translation	195
Balancing Burdens Again: A Utilitarian Analysis	201

Objections Answered	205
Chapter 4: Religion as Abnormal Conversation Starter: Considering Pragmatist	
Alternatives to Rorty	218
The Three ‘R’s’: Reason, Rhetoric, and Reeducation	221
Is Religion a Conversation Stopper?	230
Rorty’s Reconsideration	244
Immanent Critique and Translation	256
Chapter 5: Freedom and Future Transcendence: Beyond <i>Kulturkampf</i> to Immanent	
Critique	274
Soft Naturalism and Substantive Commitments	276
Is Postmetaphysical Thinking Untenable?	284
Postmetaphysical Responses to Meyer	289
Transcendence Today	297
Death as a Boundary Condition	305
The Future as Possibility	311
The Future as Praxis	320
Conclusion: The Way Forward	333
Samenvatting	343
Bibliography	351