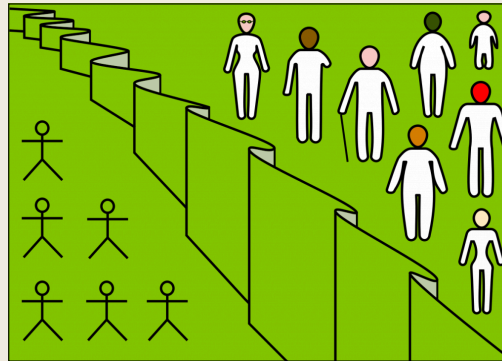


# Knowledge & Politics

Social Justice, Knowledge Economies, & International Issues

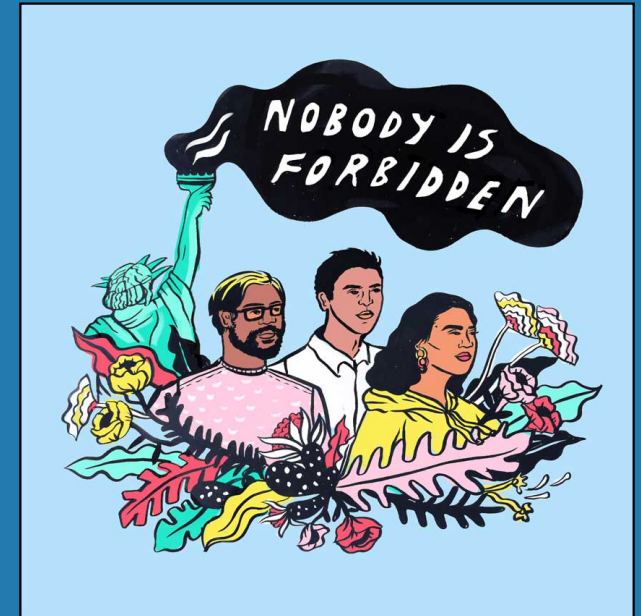
TOK L21



# Social Justice

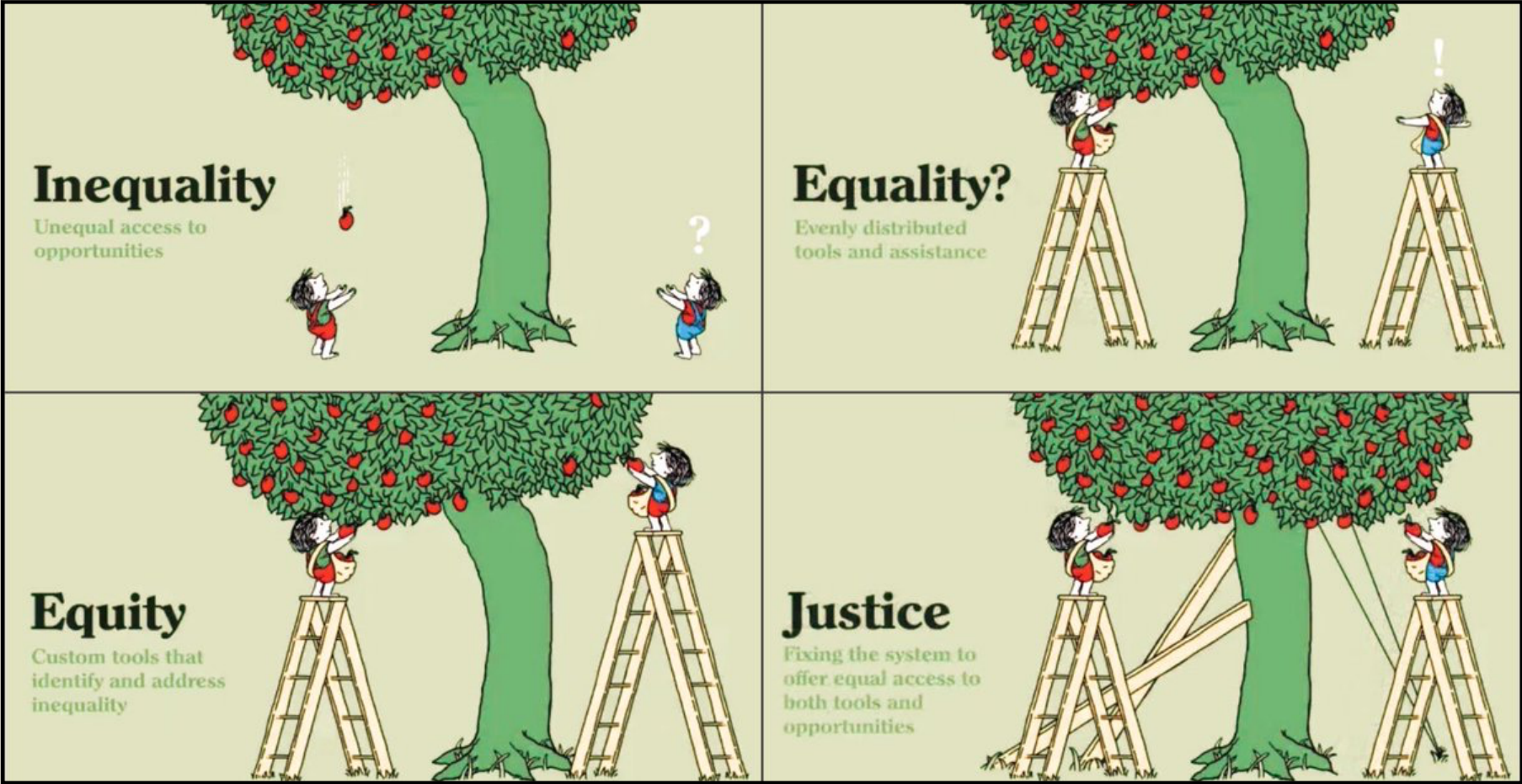
The idea that all people should have equal access to—and opportunities for—wealth, education, health, and justice.

*Equity should not be confused with Equality. Which works better: “Trickle-Down Theory” or “A Rising Tide Lifts All Boats”?*

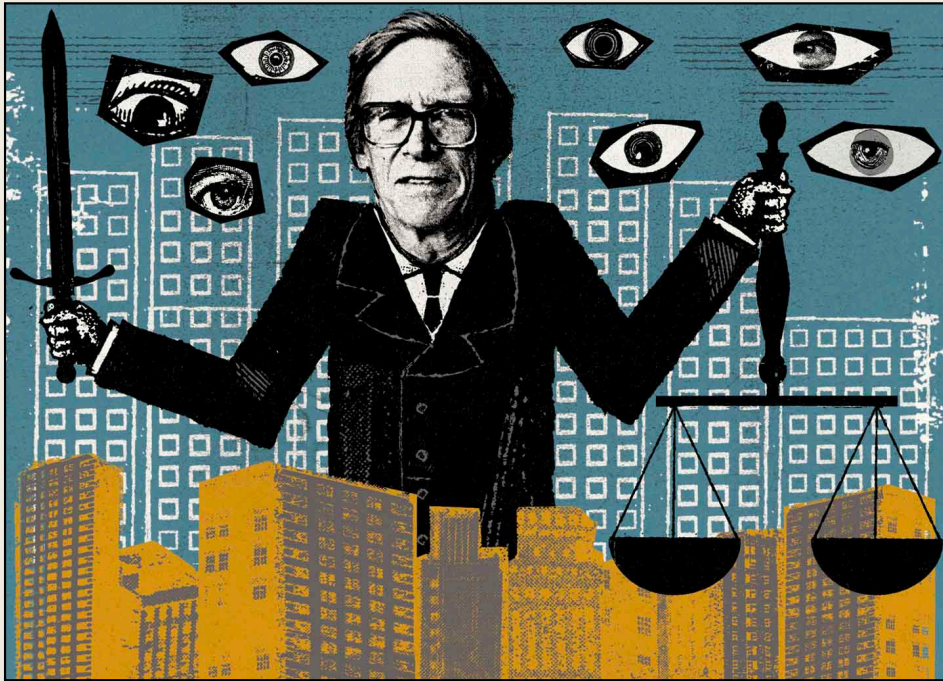


- In what ways might the knower's beliefs and biases affect the ways they perceive equality and equity?
- To what extent are political leaders justified in making decisions about the needs and welfare of others?

See the difference?



Can you apply this to real life situations?



## What is John Rawls' concept of "the veil of ignorance"?

Group Work:

(Unless your group erupts into disagreement and chaos in which case we will just quietly move to the next slide.)

Could you design a society from behind a veil of ignorance? How might your society differ from the one you live in?

**Epistemic injustice** happens when knowledge is ignored, not believed, or not understood; People who do not feel listened to lack **epistemic power**, which translates into a lack of political and economic power.



Does knowledge  
have a hierarchy?

Create a table or graphic and try to rank the following subjects in terms of how you think society regards them. Is this as it should be?

Art

Computer Science

Economics

History

Languages

Mathematics

Music

Natural Sciences

Physical Education

Religion

What is:

- Intellectual Capital?
- Intellectual Property?

Why is knowledge ownership a political issue?



# Questions for Further Thought

The UN has 193 member states with widely differing perspectives on political and social issues, so how can truth or social justice be determined? Where does the UN's right to decide come from?



How does the lack of an agreed-upon definition of terrorism affect the ability of the UN to develop a clear counter-terrorism strategy? TWE is one person's terrorist another's freedom fighter?



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## International Politics

**Hegemony** refers to the dominant set of ideas that become the norm in a way that inhibits the circulation of alternative ideas.

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How might your knowledge of what is “normal” change if a non-Western country were to become the global hegemon?