Three Dimensions of Justice

- Retributive justice
  - principles that govern punishment
- Compensatory justice
  - principles that govern compensation
- Distributive justice
  - principles that govern the distribution of benefits and burdens

Distributive Justice: Some Preliminary Thoughts

- We need principles to distribute benefits and/or burdens when we have scarcity plus need or desire.
    - Different views of Need
        - Basic biological needs
        - Things we need to live a minimally decent life.
        - Things we need for human flourishing.

More Preliminary thoughts about DJ

- Those who shoulder the burdens should share in the benefits. Those who benefit should share the burdens.
- Should we restrict benefits and burdens to members of the community?
  - Yes because this is needed to preserve communities and humans need communities.
  - No, because we're all moral equals.
  - Maybe, but when we're dealing with needs, only when everyone has an equal opportunity to be a member.

Distributive Justice

- Equality: Benefits and burdens should be distributed equally.
  - Understandings of Equality
    - Sameness
    - Equal opportunity
- Contribution: Benefits and burdens should be distributed on the basis of one's own contribution.
  - Contribution can be thought of as past actions or future potential.

Distributive Justice

- Need: Benefits and burdens should be distributed on the basis of need and ability.

- Market (Libertarianism): Basic liberty should be distributed equally, everything else by the market.

Distributive Justice

- Rawls:
  - Everyone has a right to the most extensive liberty compatible with everyone else having a like amount.
  - Social inequalities are to be arranged so that
    - they are reasonably expected to be to everyone's advantage,
    - attached to positions open to all.

Applying principles of distributive justice

- First decide which principle you want to defend.
  - One principle for all cases.
  - One principle for one type of case (e.g. basic need) and another principle for other types.
- Apply the principle to the case.