

Michael Sandel – Public Philosopher

Dc Tue 12th November 2013 at *The Blue Mugge* pub

Michael Sandel now has a remarkable reputation as a public philosopher, not just in the USA but across the globe. This evening will follow through on a *Mugge* discussion earlier this year, using Sandel's 'Philosophy bites' freely available on the web. Reference will also be made to last week's *In our Time* broadcast on Philosophy and Language.

1. Any who listened to Melvyn Bragg's radio programme last week (it can easily be down-loaded from BBC i-player facility) invited to comment on British 'ordinary language philosophy, 1930s to 1970s...'. This was not, in my view, one of the more enlightening IoT programmes - views of others on this judgement also welcome.
2. Revisit the crucial word 'market' - and engage with Sandel's question 'What should not be sold?'. Take his examples to tease out issues: Prostitution. Human kidneys. Paid for pregnancies in India...
3. In a similar way, consider 'outsourcing' or selling 'public services'.
4. Follow through on Sandel's answers to this question 'Should a banker be paid more than a nurse?'
5. Take this phrase and follow, philosophically, the argument wherever it leads: 'Tough love'...

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Using a lap-top or i-pad we may try to access Michael direct, talking about these big issues, listen to him for just a few minutes and discuss... (you can do this at home first, as preparation – just tap 'Michael Sandel' into your computer and follow the clicks to download, free-of-charge, his public lecture on markets ...). If, as is likely, modern technology lets us down again, we'll simply discuss the issues anyway.

DT November 2013

