Abstract: Because all cases of leveling down are cases in which the present or future good of people is being sacrificed solely in the name of equality—and not, say, for the sake of helping the needy or the badly off—there is a broad agreement across the political spectrum regarding cases like these: essentially, that one must never level down to equality, all things considered. And yet, this “never-level-down” conclusion might rule out a number of practices that, at least in democratic societies, are widely held—and for good reason. Consider, for instance, the egalitarian practice of giving one vote—and one vote only—to all members of the demos. According to the leveling down objection, this practice can only be defended on instrumental or non-egalitarian grounds. “One person, one vote” should be otherwise abandoned if it does nothing to serve the cause of advancing utility, protecting freedom and autonomy, or the like. This sort of thinking seems to me deeply misguided. Among other things, this view about the instrumental value of equality in voting derived from the leveling down objection gives the wrong sort of response to a hypothetical case in which everybody would be better off.
under epistocratic or other forms of non-democratic authority, both of which seem objectionable under straightforwardly egalitarian grounds. I argue in this dissertation that a reasonable theory of distributive justice will level down to equality in some cases, as evidenced by the principle of “one person, one vote.” I argue that this practice is valuable given a certain egalitarian understanding of what types of relationships are required by justice: egalitarian relationships not tainted by different forms of domination and subordination. And I argue, too, that this grounding of the value of equality might have implications for the distribution of other things that matter to egalitarians: resources among them.

*Dissertation Committee: Debra Satz (Philosophy), Josiah Ober (Political Science, Classics), Rob Reich (Political Science).*

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<th><strong>Publications in Refereed Journals</strong></th>
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<th><strong>Other Publications (In Spanish)</strong></th>
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<td>Peña Rangel, David (2013). “¿Tiene sentido el amor a la patria?” <em>Letras Libres</em> (172). April 2013, Mexico: 30-31. (Title translates as “Does it Make Sense to Love One’s Own Country?”)</td>
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| **Working** | “Redistribution or Leveling Down? Two Necessary Conditions for” |  |
WORKING PAPERS

“Redistribution or Leveling Down? Two Necessary Conditions for Leveling Down.”

“Political Egalitarianism, Plural Voting, and the Leveling Down Objection to Equality.”

“Distributive Egalitarianism, Non-subordination, and Leveling Down.”

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