

***On Tolerance: A Defense of Moral Independence* by Frank Furedi.
Continuum, 2011. Pp. 224. \$22.95 (Hardcover).
ISBN: 9781441120106**

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***Snob's Law: Criminalizing Football Fans in an Age of Intolerance* by
Stuart Waiton. Take a Liberty, 2012. Pp. 80. £11.95 (Paperback).
ISBN: 9780957155909**

Reviewer: Joel Best¹

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Frank Furedi is hard to peg. A prolific cultural critic, he has written numerous books, including *Culture of Fear* (1997), *Paranoid Parenting* (2001), and *Therapy Culture* (2004), that reflect his effort to articulate a position that is critical and social scientific, yet avoid the traps of political correctness.

Sixty years ago, social scientists were caught up in a critique of what they characterized as a conservative consensus: a mainstream culture that fostered conformity, accepted Cold War anti-Communism, tolerated racial segregation, and so on. They argued that conservatism characterized not just postwar politics, but also its social science. For instance, among sociologists scarred by the terrible events of the twentieth century's first half, the study of social movements became an intellectual backwater that treated the rise of the Nazis as the prototypical movement, and that focused on understanding why some troubled people might join movements. The sixties shook things up: sociologists' sympathies with the civil rights campaign against segregation and the antiwar movement led to more appreciative studies of social movements, and many other corners of the academy were transformed as those who held what had once seemed to be daring, insurgent views became more influential, and eventually took control. Many of today's most vocal

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