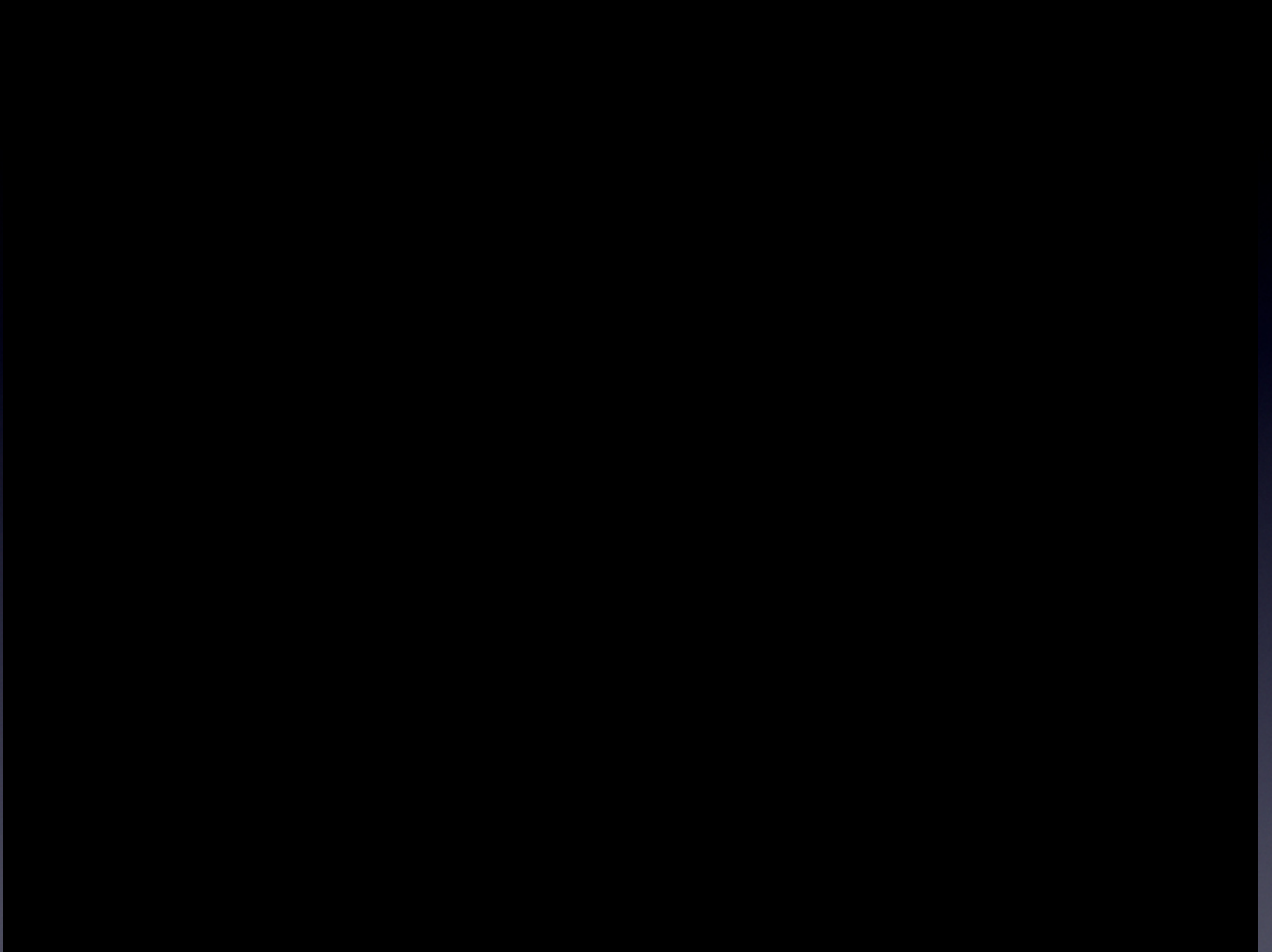


"I'm Mad and I'm Not Gonna Take It Anymore"

Myisha Cherry



What Is The
Philosophical Question?

Are Anger Declarations Political?

What is Not Meant by "Political"?

- I do not mean productive- (*working towards*)
- Example: "*I am working towards a music career*" carries no assumption about its political nature
- Example: "*The political group is not productive*" or "*The political group is productive*" shows no connection between political and productivity

- I do not mean effective- (*succeeding towards*)
- Example: "*I am succeeding at my music career*" carries no assumption about its political nature
- Example: "*The political group is not effective*" or "*The political group is effective*" shows no connection between political and effectiveness

What is Meant by "Political"?

POLITICAL Sufficient Conditions

- 1) awareness there are political and social systems who are responsible for the protection of interests of society;
- 2) recognition that oneself and others are equal and valuable parties who have rights within this political and social structure; and
- 3) one has expectations of all participants that rights will be respected and extended and are able to make judgements and assessments based on this fulfillment or lack thereof

"Yes" Accounts

- Emotional Resource Account
 - Variety of ways to express so voice can be heard (literacy, articulation, political connection, etc.) (Sue Campbell, "Being Dismissed: The Politics of Emotional Expression")
 - **PROBLEM:** there is not an equal distribution of this
- Social Uptake/Speech Act Account
 - Speech is understood within social relations, the interpreter helps give meaning to the speech (Frye, "Note on Anger")
 - **PROBLEM:** the listener and not the angry agent has the power

My Claim

- Anger declarations are political
 - Not based external dependency
 - Does not reduce speech to public, but can include private speech

My Argument

- Anger declaration is a proclamation of one's autonomy, its where an agent makes political judgments, and it is a defense against certain values of the self. *In doing this*, one is also respecting rights and making judgments based on the expectations of the state (which can not occur without awareness that they themselves are a part of a political and social system); therefore anger declarations are political.

Autonomy Claim

- Anger declaration is political because it involves naming ones anger as a proclamation of ones autonomy
 - It concerns the legitimacy of our personal feelings & decisions in a social, political, and legislative context
 - Satisfies criteria 2: *recognition that oneself and others are equal and valuable parties who have rights within this political and social structure;*
- Instead of an individual achievement, autonomy in this case is a "socially recognized act" that says that instead of being told what or what not to feel, individual recognizes and seizes the right to self identify and feel (Scheman, "Anger and the Politics of Naming")
- "Citizens are politically free to the extent to which they, as freedom-grantors and freedom-users, are morally, ethically, legally, politically, and socially autonomous members of a political community ..." (Forst, "Political Liberty")

Judgment Claim

- Anger declaration is political because in doing so the agent makes political judgments
 - Satisfies Criteria 3: *one has expectations of all participants that rights will be respected and extended and are able to make judgements and assessments based on this fulfillment or lack thereof*
- "To be angry suggest one has been wronged and one is right" (Frye, "Note on Anger")
- It is evaluative. "...to be angry the agent puts themselves into the position as a political and moral judge". (Scheman, Anger and the Politics of Naming")

Values Claim

- Anger declaration is a political defense against certain values of the self (J. Murphy, *Resentment and Forgiveness*)
 - Satisfies criteria 2: *recognition that oneself and others are equal and valuable parties who have rights within this political and social structure;*
- "...to get angry (and express it) is to claim implicitly that one is a certain sort of being, a being which can stand in a certain relation and position a propos the being one is angry at. One claims that one is in certain ways and dimensions respectable. One makes claims upon respect" (Frye, "Notes on Anger")

Possible Objections

- 1) Can admit it is ethical but it is a stretch to say it is political
 - **MY RESPONSE:** Political is an extension of the moral (Aristotle)
 - "**Justice** is what **love** looks like in public"--Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 2) It does not **DO** anything on your account
 - **MY RESPONSE:** there are different ways to "do"
- 3) If we adopt this view, political action will never get done
 - **MY RESPONSE:** a) Not only recommendation b) there are phases of the political

"If you're mad, **SAY**
you're mad"--

