

Kant and 'Merit': Retrieving a Neglected Notion of *Verdienst*.

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In this paper, I focus on Kant's discussion of equality of opportunity in the *Rechtslehre*, specifically at 6: 329. As a first step, I examine an influential interpretation of Kant's discussion and show how it attempts to dissociate Kant from the very notion of merit [*Verdienst*] that he is using in the discussion of equal opportunities. Next, I examine the notion of merit usually associated with Kant's theory of justice, and claim that it is distinct from the notion employed at 6: 329. Finally, I reconstruct this neglected notion by drawing on contemporary discussions of desertism and luck-egalitarianism.