

Press Kit – Brief

In *A Culture of Justice*, Eric Thomas Weber shows how culture can enable or inhibit the pursuit of justice. Weber argues that there is a shared, public obligation to establish and maintain a culture of justice. Culture can be employed to threaten people's self-respect, to diminish their sense of positive power to pursue meaningful life plans. Weber also addresses problems of poverty and stigmatization as well as of racism and threats conveyed by means of public speech and the cultivation of hatred. Advancing John Dewey's idea that democracy is a way of life, not merely a set of political mechanisms, he draws implications for policies and practices related to poverty, education, free speech, and the inadequately named set of norms that we call "political correctness." Written in an accessible style, *A Culture of Justice* offers numerous everyday examples and conflicts for the reader to consider.

JULY 2026, State University of New York Press, 304 pages, \$29.95, ISBN 979-8-8558-0530-7.

Why It Matters: In the midst of innumerable "culture wars," the public must decide what kind of culture justice requires, as well as how we might achieve it. Weber argues that there is a shared public obligation to establish and maintain a culture of justice, with implications for education, poverty, free speech, and "PC" culture.

Available on the [publisher's site](#) as well as on online stores, such as [Amazon](#).

Dr. Eric Thomas Weber is Professor of Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation at the University of Kentucky, where he directs the Democracy, Ethics, and Educational Philosophy (DEEP) research laboratory, and he serves as Executive Director of the Society of Philosophers in America (SOPHIA). He is the author and editor of several books, including *Uniting Mississippi: Democracy and Leadership in the South*.

Talks: Weber will be traveling around the country to deliver talks on the book at colleges, universities, and schools, as well as at bookstores and for interested groups. This book has a lot to offer for universities, colleges, and schools as well as organizations concerned about fostering a healthy, just culture.

TV and Radio Appearances: Past appearances include WDAM Hattiesburg, WLOX Biloxi, WLOV Tupelo, WREG Memphis, Mississippi Public Broadcasting / NPR, and Swedish National TV News, among others.

Interview topics: Education and Culture, Free speech, Poverty and Stigma, Racial justice, "Political Correctness"

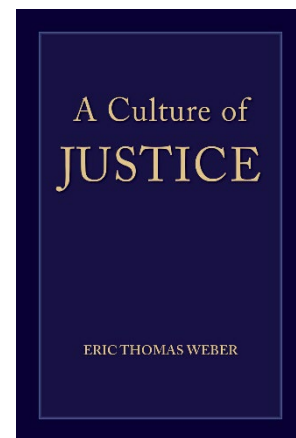
Endorsements for *A Culture of Justice*

"A pleasure to read, *A Culture of Justice* will appeal to a wide audience of social and political philosophers, scholars and practitioners of education, and people thinking about racial justice. Weber makes clear the relevance of the great American pragmatists to addressing current social and political problems such as poverty, hate speech, and racism." — *Nicholas Tampio, Fordham University*

Endorsements for *Uniting Mississippi: Democracy and Leadership in the South*

"This volume contains the blueprint to move us to the achievement of ... worthy goals."
— *The Honorable Governor William F. Winter of Mississippi, from the Foreword*

"This book is the beginning of a desperately needed conversation in Mississippi about the future of the state. Anyone interested in education policy in Mississippi should read and consider the case for education in this book."
— *Robert Mellen, Jr., assistant professor of Political Science and Public Administration, Mississippi State University*



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Interview Resources

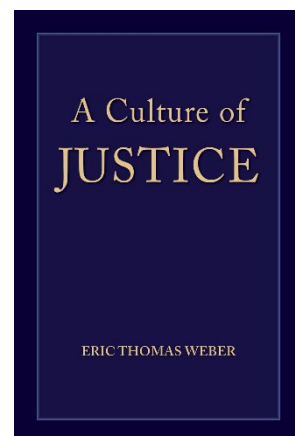
Bio talking points – Dr. Eric Thomas Weber

- is professor of Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation at the University of Kentucky;
- has his Ph.D. in Philosophy;
- has published 6 books, including *A Culture of Justice*;
- teaches courses in Ethics and Education and in the Philosophy of Education;
- selected for a [2024 UK Alumni Association Great Teacher Award](#).



Product summary – *A Culture of Justice*

- shows how culture can enable or inhibit the pursuit of justice;
- argues that there is a shared, public obligation to establish a culture of justice;
- applies to racial justice, poverty and stigma, hate speech, and political correctness;
- advocates for democracy is a way of life, not merely a set of political mechanisms;
- draws implications for poverty, education, and free speech;
- releases in paperback July of 2026 with the [State University of New York Press](#).



Interview topics - suggestions / angles

Education and Culture | Names, symbols, and mascots | Flags, Statues, and Justice

Free speech & Hate speech | Poverty & Stigma | Racial Justice | Political Correctness vs Cultural Respectfulness

Sample interview questions and prompts

- *A Culture of Justice* suggests justice isn't just about laws or politics. What exactly is a "culture of justice," and how does it impact our everyday lives?
- What inspired you to write a book about justice and culture right now? Why now?
- Flags and statues have been subjects of controversy, especially Confederate symbols. Why do symbols matter all that much for justice?
- Your book explores the idea of a "shared, public obligation" towards justice. What does that mean for the average person and is it realistic to expect this from everyone?
- You discuss the concept of "self-respect" quite a bit. How does self-respect relate to the idea of a just society, and how can a *lack* of self-respect actually be a form of injustice?
- What role does education play in building a more just culture, and what are some practical changes schools could implement?
- One part of the book talks about "cultural respectfulness." What does that mean, and how is it different from "political correctness?"
- You argue in the book that justice is an ideal, but we live in the real world. What does it mean to fight for an ideal of a culture of justice?
- If we change flags or statues in the public square, but not what is in people's hearts, have we changed anything at all really?

New from SUNY PRESS

A Culture of JUSTICE

ERIC THOMAS WEBER

314 pages • 1 b/w photograph
\$130.00 hc • ISBN 979-8-8558-0529-1
\$29.95 pb • ISBN 979-8-8558-0530-7
(Paperback available July 2026)

\$91.00 hc or \$20.97 pb
with code SNPF26



A volume in the SUNY series
in American Philosophy and
Cultural Thought

Randall E. Auxier and John R. Shook,
editors

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