Reviewer's report

Title: "Issues of equity are also issues of rights": Lessons from experiences in Southern Africa

Version: 1 Date: 4 December 2006

Reviewer: Bernard Dickens

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

None

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

The paper rigorous editing to complete missing words, eliminate repetition of words in close proximity (e.g. "therefore...therefore" sentence following reference 41, "for example...for example" after reference 52), and remove puzzling constructions such as "around the of antiretrovirals to, in which..." preceding reference 23.

Formatting errors: Themes 1 to 4 headings are in italics, 5 to 7 are not.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Those who criticize human rights for placing an individual above the group or collectivity might be informed that "second generation human rights" are collective rights. The supposition the human rights apply only at the individual level is an impoverished reading that fails to recognize how the human rights movement now takes account of first generation (individual) rights, second generation (collective) rights, and third generation (environmental/ecological) rights.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'