

Odious censoring of grad student worsened by Hitler reference

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Toronto Sun, 15 November 2017

<http://torontosun.com/news/provincial/bonokoski-odious-censuring-of-grad-student-worsened-by-hitler-reference>



Jordan Peterson speaks at the Canadian Summit '17 on June 28, 2017. (Veronica Henri/Postmedia Network)

As for a university professor bringing in Hitler in order to censure a grad student over a lesson she gave to a first-year class on language surrounding gender-neutral pronouns, who the hell does “ze” think “ze” is, other than a sanctimonious tool?

So, shame on Wilfrid Laurier University prof. Nathan Rambukkana for playing the Hitler card in order to turn what should have been no tempest whatsoever into a shitstorm.

Hitler? Really?

Rambukkana is an example of what's wrong in a once esteemed profession where, instead of promoting varying views, now increasingly wants a politically-correct one-sidedness determined only by the prof squad.

What he has done, in fact, is odiously hammer home yet another nail in the coffin of critical thinking at Canadian universities.

Rambukkana, in fact, is the one who should be censured, not grad student and teaching assistant Lindsay Shepherd.

Her sin? Well, as reported in the Waterloo Region Record, when her entry-level Communications Studies class turned to gender and language, Shepherd showed them a three-minute video clip from TV Ontario's public affairs show, The Agenda, during which two University of Toronto professors debated the issue of gender-neutral pronouns from opposite sides.

This was Kryptonite to Rambukkana and fellow professor Herbert Pimlott who, so incensed by the use of this video, they hauled in an official of the university's Diversity and Equity Office.

The reason the video clip was Kryptonite to the politically-correct censure squad of Rambukkana and Pimlott, of course, is that one of the U of T

professors in the televised debate was none other than Jordan Peterson — yes, that Jordan Peterson — who has famously and steadfastly refused to use “made up” gender-neutral pronouns like “ze” instead of “he” or “she.”

Shepherd was told exposing her students to Peterson was “transphobic” and creating a “toxic climate.”

When Shepherd argued that universities are intended to expose students to different ideas, Rambukkana rebuffed her by essentially claiming opposing views should be delivered from a neutral position.

Try to define that one.

And then he put Peterson’s views in the same breath as Hitler.

“This (playing of the video involving Peterson) is like neutrally playing a speech by Hitler,” he said during his dismantling of the 22-year-old Shepherd, all of which was taped.

If that were not bad enough, Rambukkana went off on a tangent, stating that the Laurier campus was “blanketed with white supremacist posters,” and then asking if Shepherd would show a white supremacist’s point of view in her classroom.

The connection between Jordan, Hitler or white supremacists?

Absolutely none. So, it’s just plain bully-boy tactics.

Shepherd was concerned, of course, that the tenor of her dressing-down would result in her losing her teaching-assistant job at Laurier which, with a scholarship, is helping pay her way towards a master's degree.

But, as she wrote in an email to the Record, "If this trend continues of radical leftist indoctrination, I'm not really interested in being a part of it."

"Universities are no longer places where ideas may freely circulate," she said. "They are places where if you even bring up the 'wrong idea'—ideas they do not consider politically correct—you are labelled some sort of public enemy.

"Universities are no longer places where one can engage with controversial ideas.

"They are echo chambers for left-wing ideology."

As for the students who claimed they were offended?

Shepherd has no idea, of course.

The university's privacy policy has them shielded.

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