PERNICIOUS SOLIDARITIES:

EQUITY IN SOLIDARY RELATIONS



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Accounts of solidarity often characterize it as a social bond in which solidary actors agree to share a similar fate, accept the sacrifices of their togetherness, or refuse the benefits that come from privilege. This sharing of fate or sacrifice, it might be argued, announces a different form of equity. Rather than a distribution of goods or services in accordance with the needs of the parties, it is a distribution of the risks of social togetherness in accordance with the will of the parties. But solidarity is sometimes dangerous or harmful, either to the participants in solidarity, to those outside the bonds of solidarity, or both. In this article, I explore two types of pernicious solidarities with an eye toward the equitable distribution of the willingness to share social risk. My interest is in those instances of well-intentioned political solidarities that result in harm, when the actions of activists and advocates yield injustice on par with the injustice they aim to ameliorate.

