

## Birmingham debate: The Big Society: Can a Government change behaviour?

Posted on Friday 11th February 2011

Amidst recent controversy over how to get people to volunteer in the 'big society', Professor Kathryn Ecclestone and Dr Will Leggett outline some of the tricky questions that confront a government hoping to find effective ways to change our behaviour.

**YES - [Dr Will Leggett \(http://www.sociology.bham.ac.uk/staff/leggett.shtml\)](http://www.sociology.bham.ac.uk/staff/leggett.shtml)**

"Coalition ministers liken the fervour behind their Big Society agenda to Mao's Cultural Revolution. But it is far away from the Big Society that we find an approach to governing that does indeed come from a little red book."

**NO - [Professor Kathryn Ecclestone \(http://www.education.bham.ac.uk/staff/Ecclestone\\_kathryn.shtml\)](http://www.education.bham.ac.uk/staff/Ecclestone_kathryn.shtml)**

"Questions about how to create the much-vaunted 'big society' have come under fire this week, with criticism that government does not appear to understand that public spending cuts will stop people volunteering..."

**[Join in the debate... \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/impact/debate/big-society-behaviour.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/impact/debate/big-society-behaviour.aspx)**