

# Eguaglianza, rispetto e procedure democratiche

IAN CARTER

## *Equality, Respect and Democratic Procedures*

*Abstract:* Valeria Ottonelli's important book *I principi procedurali della democrazia* (Il Mulino, 2012) provides a proceduralist account of democratic rights that includes a rich account of political agency and is based on the idea of respect for persons. This article contests her claim to be basing democratic equality on the notion of respect, and puts forward an alternative account of the basis for that equality by appeal to an alternative account of respect. It is suggested that Ottonelli's rich account of political agency can be understood as identifying a set of scalar grounding properties that form the basis for a particular kind of range property called "political personality". In virtue of this range property, political agents are considered equals. The range property of "political personality" is less basic than the Rawlsian range property of "moral personality", and can serve specifically to justify the equality of political rights that necessarily characterizes democratic procedures.

*Keywords:* Respect, Equality, Democracy, Democratic procedures, Democratic rights.