

Birdwatchers Must Be Made to Embrace Diversity and Inclusion

by Theodore Dalrymple



Satire these days is prophecy. Moreover, satire is becoming ever more difficult, if not impossible, because policy so soon outruns it in absurdity. My late friend, the eminent economist Peter Bauer, used to say that the only genuine unemployment these days is among satirists.

The problem obviously goes back some years, for Peter Bauer died in 2002. In fact, I first noticed it in 1994, when I published a novella, the fictional self-justification of a serial killer who used all the arguments of liberal penology and sociology to prove that he was morally far superior to any of the readers of his tract.

To my surprise, a reviewer whom I had had previous reason to respect thought that my satire was a straightforward essay of moral philosophy, that I really thought that a serial killer was not worse, perhaps better, than the average citizen.

By coincidence, one of Britain's most notorious serial killers published a memoir very shortly afterwards that almost exactly mirrored by novella in its argumentation. Satire so quickly becomes reality that it is difficult any longer to recognize it as such.

This week, my attention was caught by a [Epoch Times](#).