

## From the Editors

As *De Ethica's* new editor in chief I would like to address our readers and contributors. It is a great honor to succeed professor Brenda Almond who has served as chief editor from 2013 – the year *De Ethica* was founded. Together with the editorial team, professor Almond established and developed an open-access journal that seeks to publish scholarly works in philosophical, theological, and applied ethics. My ambition is to continue this job and further develop *De Ethica* as a platform for scientific dialogue between philosophical, theological and applied ethics.

I am professor of theological ethics at Uppsala University, Sweden. My most recent monograph – *Human Rights as Ethics, Politics, and Law*<sup>1</sup> – offers a critical approach to the connections between law, politics, and morality as they figure in human rights discourse. The colonial legacy of human rights, the lack of transparent principles for dealing with conflicting rights, and the counterproductive overemphasis upon the importance of legal instruments are considered factors that seriously challenge the lasting legitimacy of human rights.

Among my professional interests are moral philosophical as well as theological issues such as social ethics and its relation to political theory; forms and criteria of practical rationality; and Russian philosophical and theological tradition. Currently I am pursuing a project on social ethics and Russian orthodox theology of politics. Based on my experience in both research and teaching, I would argue that European ethics does need new platforms for publications in the field of ethics and cooperation between ethicists from different traditions.

The strength of *De Ethica* lies in its ambition to deal with ethics as both philosophical and theological enterprise. Following the vital tradition of the *Societas Ethica* – the organization behind the journal – *De Ethica* seeks to relate philosophical ethics to ethical reflection within different theological traditions. Today, when European humanism is seriously questioned by those who are trying to close the borders of Europe for refugees, fleeing wars and conflicts in other parts of the world, we need resources to counteract political pragmatism and reclaim the importance of social justice and humanism. Knowledge of religious traditions as well as capacity to responsibly scrutinize them is one of such resources. Another is moral philosophy and theology as experience of rationality, transparent communication and therefore non-violence.

Within *Societas Ethica* there is a common understanding that studies in religious ethics need to learn from theories within philosophy. Today it is also obvious that philosophical ethics need to take into consideration the importance of religion in different

<sup>1</sup> Elena Namli, *Human Rights as Ethics, Politics, and Law* (Uppsala: Acta Universitatis Upsaliensis, 2014).

spheres of life in multicultural societies. Issues such as the current refugee catastrophe in Europe cannot be responsibly addressed without a close attention payed to the religious dimensions of the crisis.

*De Ethica* is a journal that publishes articles in various fields of applied ethics such as environmental ethics, ethics of globalization, or, as in this issue, religion and capitalism. However, the ambition is also to deal with important problems within ethical theory and its implications for philosophy and theology. In order to deal seriously with issues within applied ethics it is vital to scrutinize different philosophical and theological approaches to normative theories and ethical epistemology.

Behind *De Ethica* there is a great editorial team and an experienced, engaged board who recently has got two new members – warm welcome onboard to professor of human rights, doctor of practical philosophy Lena Halldenius (Sweden) and docent of research in religion and law, doctor of theology Pamela Slotte (Finland).

My hope and expectation is that European ethicists as well as our colleges outside Europe will view *De Ethica* as an important and open platform for a dialogue on moral issues – theoretical as well as applied. I firmly believe that plurality enriches us and therefore would like to encourage ethicists from different philosophical and theological traditions to submit their articles, to contribute as reviewers and referees, and to suggest themes for special issues of our journal.

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## **Bibliography**

Namli, Elena. *Human Rights as Ethics, Politics, and Law*. Uppsala: Acta Universitatis Upsaliensis, 2014.