From the Editors

This issue of De Ethica addresses a fundamental ethical challenge of globalization, namely that of persistent and even growing global injustices. All contributions published in the issue were presented at the Societas Ethica 2015 conference in Linköping, Sweden devoted to the theme of ‘Globalization and Justice’.

The introduction to the issue is written by Göran Collste, Societas Ethica’s president at the time of the conference. Collste depicts several fundamental dimensions of globalization that demand theoretical as well as practical strategies for counteracting injustices. Furthermore, he offers an overview of the academic discussion on the issue of global justice.

In his article, ‘Does Global Justice Require More than Just Global Institutions’, Kok-Chor Tan elaborates on the institutional approach to justice in the non-ideal situation of unjust global institutions. In relation to the case of economic and distributive justice, Tan argues that individuals, as well as other agents, have an institutional duty to do their part to help create just institutions. According to Tan, this duty should be understood as sufficient.

In the article ‘Global Responsibility and the Enhancement of Life’, William Schweiker advances the centrality of responsibility to the moral good of the enhancement of life as a model of global ethics. In a dialogical relation to cosmopolitan ethics of human rights and the capabilities approach, Schweiker seeks to demonstrate advantages of the ethics of enhancement of life, such as the concept of conscience as the mode of moral being and the experience of religious transcendence within the social sphere.

Carl-Henric Grenholm’s contribution to the issue, ‘Global Justice in Lutheran Political Theology’, addresses global injustices as a challenge to the political ethics of Lutheran theology. Grenholm advances the understanding of justice in terms of liberation from oppression, arguing that such an understanding demands a radical revision of the traditional Lutheran distinction between law and gospel.

In contrast to Kok-Chor Tan’s view of institutional duty as a sufficient justice-related duty, Ville Päivänsalo states that private initiatives could be viewed as a proper response to the deficit of global justice. His article ‘Talents in the Service of Justice: Responding to Unequal Ownership beyond Compliance’ elaborates on the issue, utilizing the example of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The articles published in this volume of De Ethica approach global injustices from different although related ethical perspectives. We hope that they will enrich the academic discussion on global justice and provoke political deliberations that are as crucial as they are difficult.