
Editorial Observations

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This issue features four articles and a book review. These articles represent a full range of stimulating topics and thought including some current issues of a diverse digital century as well as ancient spiritual wisdom.

Leading this issue is Cynthia Jones' very timely article *Lying, Cheating and Virtual Relationships*. As she so rightly points out, the 21st century belongs to the Gen Xs, Gen Ys and Millennials. They will face amazing technological changes – but many of the personal character and moral issues they will face are age old. Trust and honesty are key elements of successful human relationships whether be romantic, friendships, professional, or business. Will the definition of lying and cheating change as technology advances? Do we need new social rules for engagement? Because we can technically do something does not mean we should. This ethical challenge is a recurring theme in medical ethics and now it is occurring in other fields as well. Understanding how we interact with the technology and with each other in the future will be an important topic in the coming years.

Roksana Alavi's article *Race, Identity, Stereotyping and Voluntary Oppression* is a timely and important topic. It is almost ripped from the headlines of the current news. As this issue was about to be published, Arizona passed the most extreme illegal immigration law in the history of the United States. Mexican-Americans represent 30% of the population of Arizona. The harms that Alavi speaks of, such as humiliation and fear are palpable and real when you are stopped in the streets, restaurants, and other public places by police officers. The long-term consequences of such treatment can only add to the segregation, violence, stereotyping and economic oppression that Alavi seeks to end.

Walter Block continues the previous article's theme of the potential for violence and harm in *Are Unions Criminal Gangs?* For Block,

associations and unions that have the power and authority to control their members as they can take action or threaten action against others if their will is not obeyed. For example, they can and sometimes do beat or threaten to beat others to win their way. He concludes that we all have the potential to commit harm to others. It is how we use or control that potential that matters in moral society.

Fittingly, Ramazan Altintas has the last word in this issue as that last word comes from the ancient spiritual wisdom of Sufi poet, teacher and philosopher Jalalu'din al-Rumi, known simply as Rumi in the West. In *The Perceptions of Human in the Theology of Jalalu'din al-Rumi (1207-1273)*. The Greeks asked, "What is life?" and "What makes life with living?" In contrast, Sufis ask "What is Human?" Given the previous three articles theme of doing harm to others, this is a wonderfully positive thought that we all also have the potential for good and Rumi shows us how to accomplish this and places the ball in humankind's court to accomplish it.

This issue ends with the Book Marks section of the journal. Erik R. Anderson reviews John Dewey's Ethics: Democracy as Experience by Gregory Fernando Pappas, published in 2008 in Bloomington, Indiana by the Indiana University Press. Dewey's view is that our personal/professional habits and dispositions are instrumental in determining our ethical outcomes. Certainly, the SEC situation where its workers watched porn rather than perform work illustrates Dewey's point.