

EDITORIAL

Ethics, Policy & Environment: A New Name and a Renewed Mission

Readers of *Ethics, Place & Environment* will notice at least one major change in this inaugural 2011 issue. Namely, we are no longer operating under the same name. At the Eastern Division American Philosophical Association Meeting in Boston, December 2010, we relaunched our journal under a new title, *Ethics, Policy & Environment*, with a small reception for any and all working in environmental philosophy. We saw many of you there.

It's a minor change of one word, but it should signal the many other modifications 'under the hood' which we've been making over the past two years. Along with the title change, we've altered the substantive focus of the journal more toward the intersection of the philosophical and policy communities, we've introduced new formats for more engaged articles, we've revised our editorial structure, and we've committed to a faster turnaround time for reviewing submissions.

Ethics, Place & Environment began in 1997 as the journal *Philosophy & Geography*, founded by Jonathan M. Smith (Department of Geography, Texas A&M University) and Andrew Light. The explicit focus of the journal was to broaden the scope of environmental philosophy, by bringing it into conversation with geographers who had long been interested in questions of space and place which had been of peripheral interest to philosophers. In 2005, *Philosophy & Geography* merged with *Ethics, Place, Environment*, another Taylor and Francis journal started primarily as a forum for geographers publishing work on ethics, furthering this legacy of expanding the bounds of theoretical environmental ethics away from an exclusive focus on questions on 'nature' as such.

While we will continue to be interested in broader theoretical questions which have driven much of the history of environmentalism, and inspired many of the articles in the first thirteen volumes of *Ethics, Place & Environment*, we'll aim now at promoting more directed work on issues at the intersection of environmental philosophy and environmental policy. In this respect we will encourage work by ethicists, and those inclined toward ethical inquiry, on the raft of environmental problems that is now buoying most other branches of environmental scholarship.

Doing so will involve interdisciplinary input and collaboration—and, in fact, will demand a good deal of interrogation of practical and policy questions—but we'd hope that contributors to this journal might help refine the philosophical razor with which environmental policies are formulated, assessed, discussed, evaluated, and taught.

To facilitate these ends we have rolled out a new format for our articles. Beginning in 2009, we began selecting one target article per issue—from among those submitted

to us for blind peer review—for which we solicit approximately 5–10 commentaries from specialists across disciplines. Potential commentators are invited to write short 750–1500 word responses which are published simultaneously with the lead target article in each issue. This format change has been inspired by the success of a similar such formats at the *American Journal of Bioethics* and *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*. It is our belief that this format will serve our colleagues in environmental ethics equally well by providing a continuing forum where the community can come together and critically evaluate arguments over an important issue under one cover.

In this, our inaugural issue, we have a Target Article by John Nolt, ‘How harmful are the average American’s greenhouse gas emissions.’ In response, we feature open commentaries from Robin Attfield, Lauren Hartzell, Avram Hiller, Jason Kawall, Jay Odenbaugh, Ronald Sandler, Anders Schinkel, Thomas Seager, Evan Selinger, and Susan Spierre. We have every reason to believe that the open peer commentaries format will serve to elevate the reach and status not only of the journal, but also of any contributing author’s research.

We’ve also revised our editorial structure considerably, instituting a new two-tier board. We now have an interdisciplinary associate editor board composed primarily of faculty from the University of Colorado. Maintaining this new board at one institution will facilitate collaboration across disciplines on critical questions of environmental policy. At the second tier, we’ve pulled together a short list of many senior scholars working at the intersection of environmental philosophy and policy but also added a substantial number of younger scholars who we have identified as some of the most exciting new voices in the field. We will draw on their advice to scope out the new frontiers of environmental ethics.

Finally, we’re prioritising and improving our turnaround time. We aim to complete the referee process for all materials within two or three months of submission. Our hope is that a speedier turnaround time will count strongly in our favor when authors consider competing publication venues.

What does this mean for readers and contributors? For one, it means that you have an inside-line on the latest work on the normative dimensions of environmental policy. For another, you’ll have a resource filled with representative arguments from multiple viewpoints. For a third, you can help us shape the next generation of work in environmental philosophy by contributing your own insights and your own research to this ongoing dialogue.

All told, we have redesigned the journal in hopes that it will better meet the needs of our evolving discipline. We also hope that it will encourage growth of that part of the discipline which is critically necessary not only to examine environmental issues of the day but to hopefully help to resolve them.

Benjamin Hale and Andrew Light