

SYMPOSIUM

MORAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY FOR A BROKEN WORLD?



## EDITORIAL PREFACE

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## Editorial Preface

The impact of global climate change and the ensuing environmental crisis raise theoretical as well as practical challenges in contemporary moral theory and political philosophy. Philosophers cannot rely any longer on the well-settled and optimistic assumptions that dominated the debate in the last century. In a world afflicted by climate change—what Tim Mulgan calls “a broken world”—it is not longer true that future generations will be better than their ancestors, an equitable division of resources is possible, and more than an equal chance to survive can be ensured to all. Moreover, climate change makes scientific uncertainty directly relevant for moral and political issues. Likewise, it seems that any merely ideal theory will turn out to be empty, or simply unfeasible, because of the radically change in the circumstances of human life in such a broken world. Finally, reliance on intuitions—as many philosophers did by default in their justificatory strategies—seems doomed, since intuitions fitting to actual world could be completely false or misplaced in the broken world.

This Symposium of *Philosophy and Public Issues* addresses these problems. In the first part of the volume, Tim Mulgan presents his recent *Ethics for a Broken World: Imagining Philosophy After*

*Catastrophe* (Ithaca: McGill-Queen's University Press 2011), addressing questions by Timothy Chappell, Ben Saunders and Jesse Tomalty. In the second part, we host three papers critically engaging with some attempts to conceptualize the impact of climate change and similar catastrophic challenges to contemporary moral and political theorizing.

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