

SYMPOSIUM  
PUBLIC ETHICS



EDITORIAL PREFACE

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## Editorial Preface

Ethics and political theory are sometime described as forms of ‘applied’ philosophy because they focus on how people ought to live their lives, or how to regulate public behaviors. However, ethics and political philosophy are rarely considered outside academia: notwithstanding they are far from the high level of abstraction and pure speculation of other parts of philosophy (such as metaphysics or philosophy of language), most people don’t think that these disciplines have anything to say about so-called ‘real world issues.’ Ethics and political philosophy are considered sophisticated intellectual enterprises, good for university classroom, with no practical impact whatsoever on people’s life.

In his *Ethics and Public Policy: A Philosophical Enquiry* (London: Routledge, 2011), Jonathan Wolff explains how philosophy has a lot to say about concrete problems of everyday like, and he does it in a remarkably clear way. This Symposium of *Philosophy and Public Issues* tries to show how professional philosophers reason about practical issues, discussing ideas, comparing and contrasting different theories, trying to elaborate explanatory exhaustive and coherent philosophical views.

This Symposium hosts a discussion among Jonathan Wolff and Annabelle Lever, Enes Kulenovic, Fabienne Peter, Gerald Lang, Steven Smith, and Elvio Baccarini.

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