# International Society for Environmental Ethics Newsletter

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# ADVANCING THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS AND PHILOSOPHY SINCE 1990

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## Editor's Introduction

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the summer issue of the ISEE Newsletter for 2016. This issue features a few of the usual Newsletter items, including ISEE news, ISEE Eastern APA call for papers, and a bibliography of new work in the field. But the bibliography in this issue is a bit different from those of the past.

Historically the Newsletter bibliography has prominently featured references to the most recent work in scholarly journals having environmental ethics at the core of their mission, journals such as Environmental Ethics, Environmental Values, Ethics, Policy and Environment, Environmental Philosophy, Ethics & the Environment, Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics, and The Trumpeter. Publishing in these journals is the environmental ethicists' stock in trade and awareness of the work published there is crucially important.

For all that, these journals are a resource we are all familiar with and, in the age of online publishing and indexing, access to their bibliography is readily available to us through journal websites, email alerts, The Philosopher's Index, or Philosophers and the like. What we are less liable to encounter, unless we go looking for it, is new work in environmental philosophy published outside those forums.

Thus this issue of the Newsletter features a bibliography of scholarly work in environmental ethics published in 2015 in a diversity of other forums. Among others, the roster includes important new work in:

- Agriculture and Human Values
- Bioethics
- Biology and Philosophy
- Criminal Justice Ethics
- Ethics
- Ethical Theory and Moral Practice
- European Journal for Philosophy of Science
- Hypatia
- Journal of Applied Ethics
- Journal of Business Ethics
- Journal of Moral Philosophy
- Philosophia
- Philosophy and Literature
- Philosophy of Science
- Science and Engineering Ethics
- Teaching Philosophy
- Theory and Research in Education.

The diversity of missions represented in these journals is a reminder of the breadth and complexity of environmental ethics. Hopefully it is a reminder too that environmental ethics is a crucially important area of inquiry, one that raises deep questions in many sub-domains of philosophy, science, literature, education, and more. Articles in Bioethics, Ethical Theory and Moral Practice, Ethics, European Journal for the Philosophy of Science, Hypatia, Journal of Applied Philosophy, Journal of Moral Philosophy, Science and Engineering Ethics

and Social Philosophy and Policy address questions raised by the climate change problem, such as the role of values in science, problems of epistemic injustice, problems of collective action coordination and group agency, individual moral responsibility for collective wrongs, and the nature of global justice. Other essays in Journal of Applied Philosophy and Journal of Medical Ethics deal with issues of reproductive rights and the legitimate interests of parents. Still others in Ethical Theory and Moral Practice, Philosophy and Public Affairs, Res Publica deal with issues relating to empathy and abortion by way of animal rights. And many other less directly environmental but still related issues—such as time bias in decision-making (Ethics) and the criteria for the innateness of a trait in biology (Biology and Philosophy)—are raised by problems in environmental ethics as well. The bibliography in this issue is no doubt incomplete. It is surely selective. It should demonstrate anyway that forums outside of the specialty ones we have created are both important resources and audiences for our work.

- Matt

# ISEE AT 2017 EASTERN APA CALL FOR PAPERS

Submissions are invited for the International Society for Environmental Ethics (ISEE) sessions at the 2017 Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (APA). The meeting will be held January 4-7, 2017, in Baltimore, MD.

The ISEE invites submissions of individual papers (approximately 20 minutes running time) or proposals for themed sessions (particular topics, author-meets- critics, etc., 2 or 3 hr. running time). People working in any area of ethics concerning environmental issues are encouraged to submit proposals.

#### Submission Procedure:

- \* For individual paper submissions, please submit either: (1) a full paper (approx. 3000 words), or (2) a 300-word abstract.
- \* For themed sessions, please submit the proposed session title, a brief description of the session, names of all those participating, and titles for each paper. Paper abstracts (of up to 300 words) are strongly encouraged. Participants should be confirmed as willing to attend if the session goes forward.
- \* Materials should be submitted in Microsoft Word or PDF format to Allen Thompson (ISEE Vice-President) at allen.thompson@oregonstate.edu. Please include "ISEE/APA" in the subject line.

The deadline for submitting materials and proposals is Sept. 1, 2016. Decisions will be announced by Oct. 1, 2016.

#### **OBET UPDATE**

Editor's note: The Online Bibliography of Environmental Thought (OBET) OBET is compiled and edited entirely by its registered Members, managed by a Curator in consultation with the Governing Board of ISEE and Prof. Holmes Rolston III. Prof. Rolston compiled the original ISEE Bibliography, which is still available (and essential until OBET is up to date), at http://www.cep.unt.edu/bib. David Lahti is the current Curator of OBET. He is Assistant Professor of Biology, Queens College, and Doctoral Faculty in Biology and Psychology, The Graduate Center, City University of New York. This is his most recent report on

Dear ISEE colleagues,

Last month the Online Bibliography of Environmental Thought went up as planned, at the old URL: http://isee-obet.org.

Since then we have been busy populating it-we're up to 6397 references so far.

We have two small teams, one for content development (populating the database), and one for programming.

There are many ways in which the site will continue to be improved. Registration was too buggy and I had the programmers deactivate it for the time being-- we will work on this. The Browse feature is not operational yet either. If you're ever interested to see what is going on in the programming department, we have a Trello board online that anyone can look at that shows current issues and tasks: https://trello.com/b/1COEpOLW/obet

I will wait to announce this more broadly till more development can be done this summer. My goal is for us to be at 12,000 references, have Browse activated, History

#### New Publications: Environmental Books

Animal Property Rights: A Theory of Habitat Right for Wild Animals John Hadley Lexington Books, 2015

Animal Property Rights: A Theory of Habitat Rights for Wild Animals represents the first attempt to extend liberal property rights theory across the species barrier to animals. It broadens the traditional focus of animal rights beyond basic rights to life and bodily integrity to rights to the natural areas in which animal reside. John Hadley argues that both proponents of animal rights and environmentalists ought to support animal property rights because protecting habitat promotes ecological values and helps to ensure animals live free from human interference.

Hadley's focus is pragmatist – he locates animal property rights within the institution of property as it exists today in liberal democracies. He argues that attempts to justify animal property rights on labor and first occupancy grounds will likely fail; instead, he grounds animal property rights upon the importance of habitat for the satisfaction of animals' basic needs.

The potential of animal property rights as a way of reinvigorating existing public policy responses to the problem of biodiversity loss due to habitat destruction is thoroughly explored. Using the concept of guardianship for cognitively impaired human beings, Hadley translates habitat rights as a right to negotiate – human guardians ought to be allowed to negotiate, on behalf of wild animals, with human landholders whose development activities put animals at risk.

In addition to a theory of animal property rights, Animal Property Rights affords a critique of Donaldson and Kymlicka's wild animal sovereignty theory, a defence of indirect approaches to animal rights, an extensive discussion of euthanasia as a 'therapeutic hunting' tool, and the first discussion of Locke's theory of original acquisition in animal rights literature.

The Anthropocene Project: Virtue in the Age of Climate Change
Byron Williston
Oxford, 2015

The evidence presented in the recently released Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) suggests strongly that continued failure to make meaningful cuts to greenhouse gas emissions could bring about disastrous results for the human community, especially for future generations. Summing up the findings of AR5, Rajendra Pachauri, chairman of the IPCC, has stated that our persistent inaction on climate change presents a grave threat to 'the very social stability of human systems'.

The Anthropocene Project attempts to make philosophical sense of this, examining the reasons for the inaction highlighted by the IPCC, and suggests the normative bases for overcoming it. Williston identifies that we are now in 'the human age'-the Anthropocene-but he argues that this is no mere geological marker. It is instead best viewed as the latest permutation of an already existing moral and political project rooted in Enlightenment values. The author shows that it can be fruitful to do climate ethics with this focus because in so many aspects of our culture we already endorse broadly Enlightenment values about progress, equality, and the value of knowledge. But these values must be robustly instantiated in the dispositions of moral agents, and so we require a climate ethics emphasizing the virtues of justice, truthfulness, and rational hope.

One of the book's most original claims is that our moral failure on this issue is, in large part, the product of motivated irrationality on the part of the world's most prosperous people. We have failed to live up to our commitments to justice and truthfulness because we are, respectively, morally weak and self-deceived. Understanding this provides the basis for the rational hope that we might yet find a way to

avoid climate catastrophe.

Are We Smart Enough to Know How Smart Animals Are? De Waal, Frans W.W. Norton & Co., 2016

What separates your mind from an animal's? Maybe you think it's your ability to design tools, your sense of self, or your grasp of past and future all traits that have helped us define ourselves as the planet's preeminent species. But in recent decades, these claims have eroded, or even been disproven outright, by a revolution in the study of animal cognition. Take the way octopuses use coconut shells as tools; elephants that classify humans by age, gender, and language; or Ayumu, the young male chimpanzee at Kyoto University whose flash memory puts that of humans to shame. Based on research involving crows, dolphins, parrots, sheep, wasps, bats, whales, and of course chimpanzees and bonobos, Frans de Waal explores both the scope and the depth of animal intelligence. He offers a firsthand account of how science has stood traditional behaviorism on its head by revealing how smart animals really are, and how we've underestimated their abilities for too long.

People often assume a cognitive ladder, from lower to higher forms, with our own intelligence at the top. But what if it is more like a bush, with cognition taking different forms that are often incomparable to ours? Would you presume yourself dumber than a squirrel because you're less adept at recalling the locations of hundreds of buried acorns? Or would you judge your perception of your surroundings as more sophisticated than that of a echolocating bat? De Waal reviews the rise and fall of the mechanistic view of animals and opens our minds to the idea that animal minds are far more intricate and complex than we have assumed. De Waal's landmark work will convince you to rethink everything you thought you knew about animal and human intelligence.

The Battle for Yellowstone: Morality and the Sacred Roots of Environmental Conflict Justin Farrell Princeton, 2015

Yellowstone holds a special place in America's heart. As the world's first national park, it is globally recognized as the crown jewel of modern environmental preservation. But the park and its surrounding regions have recently become a lightning rod for environmental conflict, plagued by intense and intractable political struggles among the federal government, National Park Service, environmentalists, industry, local residents, and elected officials. The Battle for Yellowstone asks why it is that, with the flood of expert scientific, economic, and legal efforts to resolve disagreements over Yellowstone, there is no improvement? Why do even seemingly minor issues erupt into impassioned disputes? What can Yellowstone teach us about the worsening environmental conflicts worldwide?

Justin Farrell argues that the battle for Yellowstone has deep moral, cultural, and spiritual roots that until now have been obscured by the supposedly rational and technical nature of the conflict. Tracing in unprecedented detail the moral causes and consequences of large-scale social change in the American West, he describes how a "new-west" social order has emerged that has devalued traditional American beliefs about manifest destiny and rugged individualism, and how morality and spirituality have influenced the most polarizing and techno-centric conflicts in Yellowstone's history.

This groundbreaking book shows how the unprecedented conflict over Yellowstone is not all about science, law, or economic interests, but more surprisingly, is about cultural upheaval and the construction of new moral and spiritual boundaries in the American West.

#### New Publications: Non-Environmental Philosophy Journals 2015

#### AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN VALUES

Title: Customary Rights and Societal Stakes of Large-Scale Tobacco Cultivation in Malawi

Author: Mandondo, Alois: German, Laura Abstract: The recent surge in land-based investments in the global South has been seen as both an opportunity for rural economic development and as a trend that poses significant social and environmental risks. This study sheds light on this debate through a look at the tobacco industry in Malawi. We employ a case-study approach to investigate how rights, property, and authority associated with land and forest resources have shifted in the context of expanded investments in tobacco, and the stakes for both local land users and citizens. Findings point to the need to broaden the metric of risks and trade offs associated with large-scale land acquisitions, and to engage in a deeper reading of how these are borne out throughout history.

Volume: 32 Issue: 1 Pages: 31-46

Publication year: 2015

Title: Re-conceptualizing Urban Agriculture: An Exploration of Farming Along the Banks of the Yamuna River in Delhi, India Author: Cook, Jessica; Oviatt, Kate; Main, Deborah S

Abstract: The proportion of the world's population living in urban areas is increasing rapidly, with the vast majority of this growth in developing countries. As growing populations in urban areas demand greater food supplies, coupled with a rise in rural to urban migration and the need to create livelihood options, there has been an increase in urban agriculture worldwide. Urban agriculture is commonly discussed as a sustainable solution for dealing with gaps in the local food system, and proponents often highlight the many social, environmental, and economic benefits. We

agriculture should not be assumed. There is a need for research to take a bottom-up approach, exploring the influence that citylevel conditions have on livelihood decisions by farmers and how this shapes the practice of urban agriculture. This paper uses a case study for an in-depth look at urban agriculture in Delhi, India to understand from the farmers' perspective how urban agriculture is practiced and what factors influence farmers' livelihood decisions. Using a team-based, multimethod rapid assessment process, data were collected through preliminary key informant interviews, field observations, semistructured interviews with urban farmers, and geographic information systems mapping. This research provides an in-depth description of market-oriented urban agriculture in a developing country, explores how farmers' livelihood decisions are embedded in the urban context, and discusses the potential of urban agriculture as a sustainable city system.

Volume: 32 Issue: 2

Pages: 265-279

Publication year: 2015

Title: Alternative Food Networks and Food Provisioning as a Gendered Act Author: Som Castellano, Rebecca L Abstract: Alternative food networks (AFNs) are exemplified by organic, fair trade and local foods, and promote forms of food provisioning that are 'corrective' to conventional agriculture and food (agrifood) systems. Despite enthusiasm for AFNs, scholars have increasingly interrogated whether inequalities are perpetuated by AFNs. Reproduction of gender inequality in AFNs, particularly at the level of consumption, has often been left empirically unexamined, however. This is problematic given that women continue to be predominantly responsible for food provisioning in the U.S., and that this responsibility can lead to negative physical, psychological and social outcomes. Using quantitative methods and data from the 2012 Ohio Survey of Food, Agriculture, and

argue that the sustainability of urban

Environmental Issues, this paper examines the extent to which gender inequality in the division of labor is reproduced in AFNs by focusing on the potential persistence of gender inequality in food provisioning among AFN participants. Findings suggest that among AFN participants, particularly those utilizing local food systems, women, compared to men, remain predominantly responsible for food provisioning, spend more time in food provisioning, and engage in more food provisioning from scratch. This research confirms that food provisioning remains a gendered act amongst AFN participants, calling attention to the persistence of gender inequality in AFNs. The paper concludes by suggesting that AFNs are positioned as a place to create change, albeit small scale, in the gendered division of household labor in the U.S., and provides some practical suggestions for how this might occur.

Volume: 32 Issue: 3

Pages: 461-474

Publication year: 2015

Title: Farmers' Views of the Environment: The Influence of Competing Attitude Frames on Landscape Conservation Efforts

Author: Thompson, Aaron W; Reimer, Adam;

Prokopy, Linda S

Abstract: Understanding factors that motivate farmers to perform conservation behaviors is seen as key to enhancing efforts to address agri-environmental challenges. This study uses survey data collected from 277 farmers in the La Moine River watershed in western Illinois to develop new measures of farmers' environmental attitudes and examine their influence on current usage of agricultural best management practices (BMPs). The results suggest that a dual interest theory approach reflecting two separate, competing psychological frames representing a stewardship view of the environment and a farm as a business (or profit maximization) view of the environment are present within the decision-making domain. Using a cluster analysis technique to examine the interaction between these attitude frames reveals four groups of farmers who hold

distinct views of the environment. Further exploration of these distinct belief systems reveals little evidence of differences in participation or willingness to participate in agricultural BMPs; however, we observe significant differences between these groups with regard to their willingness to support rural conservation planning priorities that address agri-environmental challenges. Further discussion focuses on the implications of these interactive dual interest typologies and the implications of these findings on efforts to engage farmers in conservation efforts.

Volume: 32 Issue: 3

Pages: 385-399

Publication year: 2015

#### ANNALES, ETHICS IN ECONOMIC LIFE

The Changing Face of Economics? Ethical Issues in Contemporary Economic Schools as a Consequence of Changes in the Concept of

Human Nature

Author: Horodecka, Anna

Abstract: The last financial crisis combined with some recent social trends (like growing inequality or environmental problems) inspired many contemporary economists to the re-evaluation of actual economic knowledge in the search for solutions to these problems. Modern economic schools (especially heterodox ones) stress the meaning of ethical issues in economics more often. The thesis of the paper is that this revival of the ethical face of present economics depends very strongly on the changing assumptions of human nature within economics and other disciplines which work alongside economics, such as social psychology or business ethics, for instance. In order to prove the thesis, the paper provides an evaluation of current economic schools, especially within the heterodoxy, in search of their ethical aspects, and presents them as a result of the changing assumptions about human beings within those schools. This ethical dimension of human beings manifests itself in different ways, which can be perceived as a result of it being based on different ethical schools, and different psychological and

philosophical assumptions about human nature. Therefore, the paper also considers the current developments of the view on human beings in contemporary schools of economic ethics.

Volume: 18 Issue: 4 Pages: 55-71

Publication year: 2015

#### BIOETHICS

Bioethics and the Framing of Climate Change's Health Risks

Author: Valles, Sean A

Abstract: Cheryl Cox MacPherson recently argued, in an article for this journal, that "Climate Change Is a Bioethics Problem". This article elaborates on that position, particularly highlighting bioethicists' potential ability to help reframe the current climate change discourse to give more attention to its health risks. This reframing process is especially important because of the looming problem of climate change skepticism. Recent empirical evidence from science framing experiments indicates that the public reacts especially positively to climate change messages framed in public health terms, and bioethicists are particularly well-positioned to contribute their expertise to the process of carefully developing and communicating such messages. Additionally, as climate framing research and practice continue, it will be important for bioethicists to contribute to the creation of that project's nascent ethical standards. The discourse surrounding antibiotic resistance is posited as an example that can lend insight into how communicating a public health-framed message, including the participation of bioethicists, can help to override public skepticism about the findings of politically contentious scientific fields.

Volume: 29 Issue: 5

Pages: 332-341

Publication year: 2015

#### BIOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY

Relativizing Innateness: Innateness as the Insensitivity of the Appearance of a Trait with Respect to Specified Environmental

Variation

Author: O'Neill, Elizabeth

Abstract: I object to eliminativism about innateness and André Ariew's identification of innateness with canalization, and I propose a new treatment of innateness. I first argue that the concept of innateness is serving a valuable function in a diverse set of research contexts, and in these contexts, claims about innateness are best understood as claims about the insensitivity of the appearance of a trait to certain variations in the environment. I then argue that innateness claims, like claims about canalization, should be explicitly relativized to the specific range of environmental variations of interest to the scientist. My account characterizes an important way in which scientists are employing the concept and offers a way for scientists to carry on using the concept in their research while minimizing confusion and miscommunication. There is a fruitful research program, I claim, in which scientists employ the concept of innateness to help distinguish environmental factors of interest that have a causal influence on the appearance of a trait from those that do not.

Volume: 30 Issue: 2

Pages: 211-225

Publication year: 2015

Intrinsic Estimates of Fitness Affect the Causal Structure of Evolutionary Change

Author: Hateren, J H

Abstract: The causal structure of Darwinian

evolution by natural selection is investigated. Its basic scheme is

reproduction resulting from a feedback loop driven by internal and external causes. Causation internal to the loop connects genotype, development, phenotype, and fitness, with environmental constraints on the latter preventing runaway reproduction. External causes driving the core loop are environmental change and genetic change

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### Newsletter Submissions

Please send any announcements, member news, bibliographic information or other news items via email (preferred) or snail mail to Matt Ferkany at his address listed above.

### Website/Listserve Submissions

Please send any calls for papers, job postings, or related news items via email (preferred) or snail mail to Aline Ramos at

her address above.

We continue to update and expand our regional representation. Here is the current list. If you are a member of ISEE in a country not on this list, please contact Philip Cafaro at philip.cafaro@colostate.edu if you are interested in representing ISEE.

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