

Special Issue

Theological Reflections on Moral Theories

Message from the Guest Editor

The project of modern moral philosophy has largely been to identify principles that explain why we ought to act in certain ways. Sometimes an overarching principle is offered as the central framework for ethics (e.g., versions of utilitarianism or egalitarianism). Sometimes multiple principles are offered as guides for our decision making (e.g., autonomy; respect; nonmaleficence; beneficence). Sometimes new considerations are offered in thinking through how we should apply existing, accepted principles (e.g., Longtermism).

How should the theist respond to the various proposals of modern moral philosophy? This Special Issue aims to explore the theological concerns one might have with the moral principles and, more generally, the ethical theories put forth by moral philosophers. Perhaps, in some cases, theists should count the moral philosopher as an ally in the work of identifying norms toward which we should all strive in improving lives. Perhaps, in other cases, theists will view some ideal identified by the moral philosopher as partly obscuring, or even working against, the vision they understand God to have for our life together in community.

Guest Editor

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Fresh developments in the disciplines that consistently make significant contributions to our understanding of religious personality, authority, devotion, and community – disciplines ranging from psychology, sociology, and anthropology to history, art history, philosophy, literary criticism, and political science – fuel general, as well as scholarly, interest in the world's religions.

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