Summer 2018

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AUSTRALIAN ETHICS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the Summer 2018 Edition of *Australian Ethics*. Inside you will find a wealth of intriguing explorations of ethical issues and ideas, with recurring themes of interchangeability, conceptual clarification and opposing views.

Pay careful attention to the information on our 2019 symposium (p.3). For the first time, the AAPAE will be hosting an invite-only symposium, rather than a conference. Of course, all AAPAE members are invited to attend—and we very much hope to see you there! We decided to experiment a little with the format this year, as there were some challenges securing a host for a full-scale conference (though things are moving forward for the 2020 and 2021 conferences).

The symposium theme is:

Educating practitioners and aspiring practitioners—the art of (ethical) survival.

We will have panel discussions, papers and roundtables exploring this topic. While some original research may be presented, the main idea is to share the experiences of AAPAE members and invited experts who educate, guide or otherwise engage with practitioners (and aspiring practitioners). How do they see ethics? What works for them? What doesn't? AAPAE members have an enormous amount

of experience on this topic, and we are hoping to create a place where their existing knowledge can be shared and built upon. The venue will be at the University of Technology, Sydney—thanks to Bligh Grant for making the space available.

Do make sure you decide whether you would like to come in the near future, as spaces are limited, and we will need an idea of numbers by early March.

Before concluding, thanks go once again to Vandra Harris and all the folks at Global, Urban and Social Studies, RMIT and at RedR Australia, for producing such a wonderful conference in September. AAPAE conferences that bring in a particular group—as this one did with humanitarian workers—are always very memorable. It is exciting to hear from reflective practitioners and engaged academics as they take the time to explore the challenges and dilemmas they face every day. We're grateful also to Dayo Sowunmi from the Anode Group for sponsoring the PhD prize, which had two worthy winners. Warm congratulations to Andy Kidd (1st Prize) and Rich Phan (2nd Prize).

Best wishes to all, and I hope to see you at the 2019 symposium!

Hugh

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Professional & Applied

- BUSINESS
- EDUCATION
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- PUBLIC SECTOR
- SOCIAL WORK
- TEACHING

Call for papers

Research in Ethical Issues in Organizations (REIO) The Ethics of War and Peace

To win without fighting is best – So wrote Sun Tzu in *The Art of War* over 2000 years ago. Strategy is highly relevant in organizations and *The Art of War* is 'perhaps the most prestigious and influential book of strategy in the world today'; it is 'a study of the anatomy of organizations in conflict'.

Leo Tolstoy insisted that his masterpiece, War and *Peace* (1869), was not a novel. Neither, Tolstoy claimed, was it a historical chronicle. But it has a plot and involves organizations at many levels family, ballroom, military, government. In 1925, Winston Churchill wrote that 'the story of the human race is War' and currently nations, political groups, companies and other organizations are engaged in "wars" of greater or lesser impact. One could say that wars run amok. China and America are involved in a burgeoning trade war which many suspect heralds the end of globalization. America wages a war on drugs and a war on terror. In Kenya there is a war against ivory poachers. GreenPeace is challenging whalers. YouTube and Spotify have disrupted the Music Industry. Historians are at loggerheads over interpreting the past in the history wars. Audi billboards confront BMW billboards. Traditional bookstores are at war with online retailers. Environmentalists are at war with coal miners. Animal rights activists are at war with companies testing their products on animals. Hermes is at war with counterfeiters. Dogs are at war with cats. Being at

war is no longer restricted to armed conflict between nations.

And so we have a call for papers which asks you to explore the ethics of war and – if you so like – of peace and the implications of either for organizational ethics. If – as some insist – beauty is in the eye of the beholder – so is war and so is peace. So please mobilize your war, or enlist your peace, and submit a paper which explores the implications thereof for organizational ethics.

There can be no doubt that the war waged by organizations such as Hermes, Louis Vuitton, and other such luxury goods manufacturers against counterfeiters has enormous ethical implications both for those organizations and their stakeholders. Intellectual property rights and supply chain integrity are in question as counterfeiting becomes more prevalent, more profitable, and the luxury firms fight back. All such conflict has ethical implications: we mention luxury goods by way of example. It is not our intent to limit the discussion. We welcome your suggestions. Peter Drucker discussed the rise of organizations. Today they are ubiquitous. Some are for-profit organizations, others are not. Ethical issues emerge for those organizations when they go to war, engage in strategic conflict, or fight back against predators. In this issue of Research in Ethical Issues in Organizations we hope to explore the reality of such situations.

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Both descriptions of conflict in organizations and conceptual analysis of war-like activity will be welcome. Please submit completed papers which conform with the author guidelines http:// www.emeraldinsight.com/products/ebookseries/author_guidelines.htm **by email to Michael Schwartz** at michael.schwartz@rmit.edu.au before **15 February 2019**. All papers will be double blind reviewed.

If you have any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact the editors, Michael Schwartz (michael.schwartz@rmit.edu.au) or Howard Harris (howard.harris@nisa.edu.au).

References:

Churchill, W.S., (1925). Shall we all commit suicide? *In Thoughts and Adventures*. London: Odhams, 1947, pp. 184-191 Sun Tzu, (1988). *The Art of War* (T. Cleary, Trans.). Boston MA: Shambhala Tolstoy, L., (2004). *War and Peace* (C. Garnett, Trans). New York NY: Penguin Random House

A A P A E 2019 S Y M P O S I U M EDUCATING PRACTITIONERS AND ASPIRING PRACTITIONERS— THE ART OF (ETHICAL) SURVIVAL

THEMES:

- Bridging—and exploring—the gap between ethics (as an academic discipline, including the theories of moral philosophy) and ethics (as needs to be taught to or practiced by practitioners, to confront their practical lived challenges).
- Exploring the distinct and overlapping ethical issues in the four work-related domains of commercial, professional, corporate and governmental.

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SCHOOL OF GLC URBAN AND SOC

VENUE:

University of Technology, Sydney

DATE:

4-5 July 2019

COST:

A\$120.00

LOGISTICS:

The Symposium will run for one-

and-a-half days, concluding on the second day with the Annual General Meeting (AGM), and will include discussion and ideas about how to inform the AAPAE's work and engagement with the Symposium themes.

The aim is to have attendees use a single space within the venue, with papers, panel discussions, workshops and roundtables throughout the event.

All AAPAE members are cordially invited

FORMAT:

The aim is not necessarily communicating new, original research through paper presentations, but rather discussing and sharing experiences in education and engagement with practitioners and future practitioners.

PUBLICATION NOTE:

While there is no expectation that papers presented at the Symposium will be invited for publication in a 'conference proceedings' issue of Research in *Ethical Issues in Organiza-tions* (REIO), as the format is not a traditional conference presenting original work-in-progress, some papers may be developed from the Symposium, and these may be appropriate for publication in REIO. The AAPAE Executive is liaising with the editors as to likely outputs from the Symposium, and the priorities of REIO.



AUSTRALIAN ETHICS

ETHICS IN MATHEMATICS

James Franklin

The first-ever conference on Ethics in Mathematics was held in Cambridge on April 20-21, 2018. Despite the ubiquity of mathematical technologies in finance, marketing, computing, military and other contexts (not to mention metrics in academia), mathematics has rarely been focussed on as an ethical topic. Maurice Chiodo (PhD Melbourne) and Piers Bursill-Hall, of the Cambridge Ethics in Mathematics Society, brought together a wide range of 26 speakers, mostly mathematicians, with an interest in the topic. Prominent speakers included three Turing Award recipients, Whitfield Diffie, Vint Cerf and Martin Hellman.

Mathematicians have traditionally taken a "not my department" attitude to the ethical consequences of their work, but there is growing understanding that the enormous power of mathematical technologies, implemented in algorithms in all kinds of software, requires ethical reflection informed by technical understanding. An Australian speaker was James Franklin of the University of New South Wales, who spoke on 'How I taught the world's only course on ethics in mathematics'. His account of the UNSW course on 'Ethics and Professional Issues in Mathematics' can be found here: http://www.austms.org.au/Publ/ Gazette/2005/May05/franklin.pdf

Information on the conference and links to videos of the talks are at http://www.ethics.maths.cam.ac.uk/ EiM1/

A journal in the field is planned.

Professor James Franklin

School of Mathematics and Statistics University of New South Wales link: http://www.maths.unsw.edu.au/~jim email: j.franklin@unsw.edu.au

ON THE IDEA OF "MORALS AND ETHICS" CONT.

(Continued from page 5)

To my mind these three ways of distinguishing between morality and ethics carry some force. The two terms at least connote some differences. But how different are they? Are these minor and incidental differences that are no serious cause of confusion because context distinguishes when one term or the other is the appropriate word to use?

I'm not sure. However, for me, one important reason for regarding morality and ethics as essentially the same is that both (however interpreted) involve justice as the central moral or ethical consideration. Concern for justice ranges across the public and the personal. Having the same tenet suggests that morals and ethics are different names for the same thing. It has the added benefit that it allows room for me to pursue my own projects, since justice gives me the same basic rights as anyone else.

That said, I note that an essay in *The Conversation* takes a very different view from mine. Paul Walker and Terry Lovat say that 'there is a valuable difference between ethics and morals'. The difference is that 'moral decisionmaking relocates ethical decisionmaking away from an individualistic reflection on imperatives, utility or virtue, into a social space' (https:// theconversation.com/you-saymorals-i-say-ethics-whats-thedifference-30913). This is just the opposite of Hegel's viewpoint. I leave the reader to make up their own mind!

Dr Alan Tapper

Adjunct Research Follow John Curtin Institute of Public Policy, Curtin University, WA email: alandtapper@gmail.com

ON THE IDEA OF "MORALS AND ETHICS"

Re "ethics" and "morality" the same thing? Or do we have two different words because we mean to indicate two different things? These questions cross my mind every time I hear someone use the phrase "morals and ethics", and it is a phrase I hear more and more commonly. I never know what is going on when I hear it. Here are some reflections on the puzzle this phrase presents.

Normally, if we use two expressions side by side we mean to indicate two distinct topics. "Food and drinks will be provided" means two distinct sorts of things will be provided. Conversely, we avoid using two words side by side when they mean the same thing. We don't say "Bring your own drinks and beverages". Naturally, then, we expect the phrase "morals and ethics" to indicate two concepts, not one.

The logic of this is that a person might coherently be regarded as having bad morals but good ethics, or good morals but bad ethics. And yet this is rarely if ever what seems to be implied by talk of "morals and ethics". Nor is the distinction standardly used as if two sorts of reason might be given, one sort to indicate good or bad morals and another sort to indicate good or bad ethics.

Maybe, then, there is no real distinction here, and that is the end of the matter. But the problem is not quite so simple. There are at least three ways in which these terms are to some degree different.

One is that we commonly use "ethics" in the context of public matters and "morals" in the context of personal matters. We usually speak of "professional ethics", "business ethics", "medical ethics", "codes of ethics", whereas it would seem less natural to use "morality" in these contexts. Conversely, we would more commonly speak of a "morally decent" person than of an "ethically decent" person.



Amongst philosophers, the greatgrandfather of this sort of distinction between morality and ethics was GWF Hegel. Hegel drew a sharp distinction between "moralität" (morality) and "sittlichkeit" (ethics). He held that morality was a matter of personally-chosen rules or principles (a Kantian style of morality), whereas ethics was the result of publicly -established custom and tradition, and was thus (in his view) something more solid and objective than morality.

A second complication is that

Alan Tapper

"morality" is sometimes seen as having a negative side, whereas "ethics" does not. The negative side is denoted by the concept of *moralism*. To call someone "moralistic" is to imply that they over-moralise things. On this view there can be "too much morality". But we don't talk of a person being "over-ethical" or speak of "ethicalism" as a criticism.

The objection to moralism is a form of pushback against an excess of moral zeal. Both Christian and utilitarian moralities make strong claims and seem to leave little room for self-interest, which can be stigmatised as equivalent to selfishness. These moralities can seem moralistic. Ethics, by contrast, can be seen as allowing more space for the pursuit of one's own personal projects. The idea of a good, or well-lived, life is seen as more important than that of a moral life. Amongst philosophers, this viewpoint was strongly defended by Bernard Williams, with support from the moral scepticism of Friedrich Nietzsche.

A third difference is that "ethics" is the name of a subject of study, whereas "morality" is not. Universities run courses on ethics, not on morality. If morality is taught, it is under the heading of "moral philosophy", not of morality. The direct teaching of morality is not part of normal education; if it has a place, it is in the home or maybe in a religious context.

Hugh Breakey

REFLECTIONS ON FREE SPEECH ON CAMPUS

Recently, politicians, thinktanks and commentators have raised an array of concerns with free speech issues on university campuses in Australia, and a government-ordered review of the matter is underway.

One of the problems with this debate, however, is

that different people can mean different things when they talk about these issues. There are several reasons why it is important to clarify these meanings and keep them distinct. For one thing, a given university may excel in one area, but struggle in another. There are also different levels of ethical seriousness that apply to each concern. As well, the types of research and evidence-gathering we might do

to inform ourselves about one issue may not tell us much about the others. Finally, sometimes the issues might even be in tension, meaning that efforts to deal with one problem might create another.

With this in mind, in what follows I distinguish five different types of political-ethical concern we can have when considering free speech issues at universities. My aim here is not to produce evidence or answers either way, but rather to attempt some conceptual under-labouring to help us think clearly about what is at stake and where problems might lie.

1. Actual silencing

Actual silencing occurs when alternative views are effectively and directly shut down, and communication of them prevented. Speeches, movies, lectures, performances and other events can be neutered through disruptive protest, shouting down, using violence to require speakers to employ prohibitively expensive security, a policy of no-platforming, or university policies and codes of conduct that constrain speech. As a result, controversial speakers either do not come, or are not able to speak and/or be heard. This concern requires two conditions: a lack of political diversity across the academic population and a lack of commitment to any type of professional "neutrality". (These worries in the US motivate the Heterodox Academy). This phenomenon can create biases in both teaching and research. Alternative

> positions and theories may not be taught (or marked) in a fair-minded way. University-produced research may have a systemic bias, reflecting the political agendas and interests of the staff. At its most serious, political positions may be used in the hiring, recontracting and promoting of academics, in invitations to speak or submit work, and so on.

3. External pressure on teaching and research content

This issue arises when the integrity of academic freedom and university teaching is pressured and distorted by external forces (such as by national government policy or foreign government interference). While some minor pressures are inevitable, it becomes a problem when those in power succeed in making research and teaching one-sided or selective. Complicating this issue is that universities receive funding from governments and fee-paying students, allowing financial pressures to be brought to bear by a variety of actors.

4. Lack of open-mindedness and deliberative virtues

The worry here is that students are not taught, required, supported or encouraged to display critical thinking, civility and open-mindedness when faced with opposing views. This close-mindedness can occur in their written work, but also—and perhaps more crucially—in class discussions, debates, seminar Q&As and so on. It becomes an issue when students are not equipped with the willingness, openmindedness and intellectual skills to genuinely listen



ETHICAL MINDSETS AND SPIRITUALITY: AN UPDATE

Theodora Issa

ness Conference for Suryoye (21-22nd September ality, optimism, harmony and balance, truth seek-2018 – Stuttgart – Germany). This conference was ing, pursuit of joy, peace and beauty, making a held under the patronage of H.H. Moran Mor Ignati- difference and professionalism recorded high alphas us Aphrem II, Patriarch of Antioch and all the East, of 0.931 (aesthetic spirituality) to a low of 0.720 the Supreme Head of the Universal Syrian Orthodox (professionalism). In addition, these components' Church.

The topic of my virtual presentation (available on YouTube) to this conference was "Ethical Mindsets and Spirituality".

Issa's (2009) research came up with the idea of "Ethical Mindsets" through an investigation of two literatures: (i) spirituality, and (ii) aesthetics. The empirical evidence presented by Issa then, assessed and acknowledged the existence of ethical mindsets

n 22nd September 2018, I had the privilege to in the Australian services sector with eight compobe the first presenter in The First World Busi- nents namely: aesthetic spirituality, religious spiritudimensions recorded high factor loadings displaying different potency on ethical mindsets. Thus Issa (2009), defined Ethical Mindsets as:

> '...an appreciation of and reflection on any situation through the filter of personal beliefs and values such as honesty, integrity, harmony, balance, truth seeking, making a difference, and demonprofessionalism, deriving from strating the strength rooted in individual's inner-self' (Issa, 2009, p. 161).





mixed method design. 2,004 respondents across country that did not count for spirituality as one of twelve countries around the world completed an the components of Ethical Mindsets was Hong online survey (in English) yielding rich qualitative Kong. and quantitative data from over 99% of the respondents.

land, Israel, Singapore, South Africa, England, Scot- (Issa, 2016). However, here, as was the case in the land, and the USA had Spirituality view and prac- September 2018 conference, the concentration is tice as the first ethical mindsets component. Coun- on the concept of Spirituality and Ethical Mindsets. tries such as India, Malaysia and New Zealand hav- It became apparent that different respondents had ing this same component Spirituality view and

Since then, further data has been collected using a **practice** but as their second component. The only

Some of the preliminary findings were presented earlier at a conference held in Singapore (Issa Data analysis suggests that Australia, Canada, Ire- 2014), and have been included in a book chapter

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ETHICAL MINDSETS AND SPIRITUALITY: AN UPDATE CONT.

(Continued from page 7)

different understandings of what is meant by the heaven' (Lamsa, 1933, Matthew 5:16). concept of Spirituality. Some of the major issues discovered from the analysis of the data were in relation to:

- The stance of religion in the world: Many respondents felt that it is fading, which might be somehow linked to media reports unfolding the latest sexual abuse cases in the West and the terrorism, kidnapping and attacking of minorities across the world.
- A spectrum of understandings: Whilst some respondents identified very much with spirituality rooted in religion, others strongly differentiated between religion and spirituality; where some indicated religion as much bigger than spirituality, while others indicated that they were spiritual, but would never be religious. However, some of the literature continues to refer to both concepts "religion" and "spirituality" interchangeably not taking into account the developments in the minds and souls of those who are unable to reconcile the two in any way, shape or form.
- Connection to religion: Some respondents admitted that when they were young, they were not good Christians, but as they become older, they had tried to improve the situation. Some respondents acknowledged that they had lost their religion, while others clearly identified with "atheism". Yet another group of respondents declared that they were religious but did not engage with any organised religion.

In summary, the message I conveyed through my presentation in September 2018, was that the Churches need to be involved more in the lives of their children. Indeed, this is essential as Christians worldwide need to be guided by the contents of the Holy Bible to steer their way of life whether they are with family or at work. Thus, Christians will be acting in line with what they are taught by Our Lord Jesus Christ when He said:

'Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven' (Lamsa, 1933, Matthew 5:16).

This update considers only one aspect of the first data set relating to Spirituality and Ethical Mindsets highlighting some salient points of the outcome of the research mentioned above.

More data has since been collected from other countries, in an attempt to theorise the global Ethical Mindsets. The first set of data is anticipated to be published in a book format, while the latest data will form part of peer reviewed journal papers that will be forthcoming. Finally, and as is usually the case, nothing is perfect under the sun, there are still some countries from where data needs to be collected, to allow us to form a global outlook on the issue of Ethical Mindsets. To achieve this, we need further efforts including the translation of the online survey into different languages e.g. Mandarin, Russian, Portuguese and Spanish to name few. **We are now, looking for funding and translators to achieve this goal.**

Dr Theodora Issa

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Please contact Theodora direct if you can assist with translation of the online survey instrument.



AAPAE Listserv

If you have any information or notices that you would like us to relay to your peers, please email your request (word format) to: info@aapae.org.au

The AAPAE's Listserv has over 480 subscribers locally and o/seas.

THE FUTURE OF PHILOSOPHY IN SCHOOLS CONFERENCE 2018

Laura D'Olimpio

The Federation of Australasian Philosophy in Schools Associations (FAPSA) holds a conference every second year. The FAPSA is an umbrella association that supports the teaching and research in philosophy in pre-tertiary educational spaces across Australasia. Our ten associations are based in the Australian Capital Territory, Hong Kong, New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland, Singapore, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia. They offer professional development for teachers, host Philosothons, create classroom resources, and have an official online, open-access Journal of Philosophy in Schools.

The 2018 FAPSA Conference was held at The University of Notre Dame Australia's (UNDA) Fremantle Campus in July and included an In-Action Day at Hale School. There were two International keynotes for the event: Prof Michael Hand from the University of Birmingham presented a provocative keynote entitled Moral Education in the Community of Inquiry and Mr Pete Worley was our expert practitioner from The Philosophy Foundation in the UK. Pete ran some wonderful sessions with primary- and high -school students at our In Action Day which offered professional development for teachers of philosophy in schools. Our third keynote was Prof Sandy Lynch from UNDA who presented an insightful keynote entitled The Future of Philosophical Ethics in Schools: Plan and Paradox.

This was the first time the FAPSA Conference made it all the way to Western Australia! We were delighted at the turn out (80 attendees) including 43 presenters from all around Australia, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Norway, The Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, and the UK.



On the final morning of the conference, UNDA's Institute for Ethics and Society hosted a free public event to coincide with the conference. The breakfast panel on *Why teach ethics in schools?* featured the keynotes Prof Sandy Lynch and Prof Michael Hand, Prof John Haldane, conference convenor and FAPSA President Dr Laura D'Olimpio, and Mr David Gribble, CEO of Constable Care Child Safety Foundation. Approximately 90 people attended this event.

For some relevant public philosophy on the theme of moral education, please check out:

- Michael Hand's 'Making Children Moral' for Philosophy Now https://philosophynow.org/ issues/127/Making_Children_Moral;
- Laura D'Olimpio's 'Moral Education for Digital natives' for *Philosophy Now* https:// philosophynow.org/issues/128/ Moral_Education_for_Digital_Natives;
- Pete Worley's opinion piece for *The Guardian* 'A school of thought: why British pupils should study philosophy' https://www.theguardian.com/ commentisfree/2018/jun/20/school-british-pupils -philosophy; and
- The ABC Radio National Philosopher's Zone programme on 'Ethics and Absolutes in the Classroom' http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/ programs/philosopherszone/ethics-and-absolutes -in-the-classroom/10127132

Schools across Australasia now incorporate philosophical inquiry in the classroom, often using the Community of Inquiry pedagogy. Advocates of philosophy in schools believe students need to develop critical, creative, caring and collaborative thinking skills to better prepare them for life in a global and technological world. Teaching children philosophy and ethics is a good place to start!

Dr Laura D'Olimpio

Conference convenor and FAPSA President Email: laura.dolimpio@nd.edu.au

The 2018 FAPSA conference dinner

WHY ARE PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL STANDARDS SO **IMPORTANT FOR UNIVERSITIES?**

James Page

ne of the remarkable as- breaching such standards pects of recent history has often have consequences, been the growth of participation beyond this, it is important in itin education around the world, self for individuals to comply with including participation in higher accepted standards. How does education. For many years, higher one teach professional and ethical education has been seen as an conduct? It would seem obvious elite activity, although it seems that there is little point talking to difficult to defend that position students about appropriate pronow. The growth in higher educa- fessional and ethical standards tion participation has tended, without an appropriate practical however, to obscure fundamental commitment on the part of those questions about the purpose of teaching adherence to the profeshigher education, and related sional and ethical standards. Put questions about the importance simply, we learn from example. of professional and ethical standards for institutions of higher education.

Usually institutions of higher education (Universities) have a nominal commitment to professional and ethical standards through Codes of Conduct and Codes of Ethics. However whether those in the maintenance of peace. leadership positions within Universities, or indeed within public Secondly, an equally important institutions generally, adhere to function for Universities is the such Codes in another question. It search for truth, what we might seems appropriate that we should otherwise call research. Both in ask why adherence to profession- the research function and in the al and ethical standards is so im- teaching function, portant for Universities, and here I may well be described as truth want to suggest some basic rea- institutions. Here too it is difficult sons why such adherence is im- not to overstate the importance portant.

Firstly, an important function for Universities is the training of future professionals, and an important part of this function is training in professional and ethical conduct. This has both practical and ethical dimensions, in that but,



... higher education, should strengthen respect for human rights, promote understanding, tolerance and friendship, and further

Universities of adherence to professional and ethical standards. If those in leadership positions, or even those not in leadership positions, are not adhering to professional and ethical standards, then the credibility of the University in its search for and promotion of truth will

will inevitably be undermined.

Thirdly, there is a very practical reason why Universities ought to comply with professional and ethical standards, in that Universities operate in a competitive market where image is crucial. Thus, if Universities are seen not to be adhering to relevant professional and ethical standards, this can only be to the detriment of the University. This importance of image, of course, has only increased with the radical transparency which is part of the internet phenomenon. Pragmatist ethicists are fond of pointing out that doing good can result in good results, and having Universities adhere to professional standards seems to be an obvious example of this.

Fourthly, in addition to the above ethical and practical considerations, there is the established legal obligation for educational institutions to exercise a duty of care. Universities, like other educational institutions, have an obligation to avoid causing or allowing foreseeable harm to persons, and this is fulfilled by exercising reasonable care. There is a strong argument that exercising reasonable care encompasses complying with recognised professional and ethical obligations.

Fifthly, Universities operate as communities. As such, any failure of commitment to professional

WHY ARE PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL STANDARDS SO **IMPORTANT FOR UNIVERSITIES?** CONT.

(Continued from page 10)

only detract from the overall mo- instance, the International Cove- the future. rale of the institution. How so? nant on Economic, Social and Cul-Put simply, if those in leading po- tural Rights, at Article 13, stipusitions are not acting in a diligent, lates that education, which inprofessional and ethical manner, cludes higher education, should then there is often little encour- strengthen respect for human agement for others within a Uni- rights, promote understanding, versity community to remain com- tolerance and friendship, and furmitted to such standards. Indeed, ther the maintenance of peace. if leaders of a University commu- Similarly, the Declaration and Pronity are not actively adhering to gramme of Action for a Culture of Dr James Page professional and ethical stand- Peace, at Article 4, stipulates that Adjunct Professor ards, this can only induce a large education at all levels is one of School of Humanities degree of cynicism within the in- the principal means of establish- University of New England stitution.

ing a culture of peace. If a Univer- email: jpage8@une.edu.au Finally, Universities operate as sity is not adhering to standards

agents of change, in that Universi- of professional and ethical conties anticipate and encourage a duct, this can only serve to underand ethical standards on the part commitment to the making of a mine the role of the University in of leaders of the University can better world for the future. For encouraging an ethical vision for

> The changing role of higher education, and of the University, poses some special challenges. Yet perhaps the most important challenge is to retain, or in some cases reclaim, the importance of professional and ethical conduct within the University.

For more information and statistics on participation in Australian Universities, see:

- Universities Australia (https://www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au/uni-participation-quality)
- Department of Education and Training (https://www.education.gov.au/access-and-participation)

REFLECTIONS ON FREE SPEECH ON CAMPUS CONT.

(Continued from page 6)

to, seriously consider and constructively critique op- At its most serious, the monoculture may even disposing positions.

5. Overall monoculture

This final, large-scale phenomenon results from a mix of one or more of the above qualities. It occurs when there is an overall chilling of the willingness of students and staff who think differently to speak out. The result is a widespread lack of awareness

across the university population about alternative positions and the reasons others might hold them. courage students from university study, or alter the direction of their study.

Dr Hugh Breakey

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Australian Ethics

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AAPAE Charter

President **Hugh Breakey**

he broad purpose of the AAPAE is to encourage awareness of, and foster discussion of issues in, professional and applied ethics. It provides a meeting point for practitioners from various fields and academics with specialist expertise and welcomes everyone who wants or needs to think and talk about applied or professional ethics.

The AAPAE fosters and publishes research in professional and applied ethics, as well as attempting to create connections with special interest groups.

However, the AAPAE does not endorse any particular viewpoint, but rather it aims to promote a climate in which different and differing views, concerns, and approaches can be expressed and discussed.

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