CALL FOR PAPERS

Journal of Business Ethics – Special Issue
“Taking an Interdisciplinary View of Ethics in Consumption”

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The rise of consumption-driven society has been accompanied by increasing academic interest in all aspects of consumption – including ethical consumption. The shifting nature of consumption ethics is also impacting individuals and groups across all sectors of society. This Journal of Business Ethics Special Issue comes at a time when there is heightened interest in these intersections. The ethical and moral dimensions of consumption are increasingly attracting academic interest across multiple disciplines, including: politics and political science (e.g. Micheletti 2003); sociology (e.g. Humphrey 2016); anthropology and cultural studies (e.g. Carrier & Luetchford 2012); management (e.g. Caruana & Crane, 2008); philosophy (e.g. Schwartz 2010; Soper 2016); industrial/commercial design (Cooper 2005); economics (e.g. Starr 2009, 2016); marketing (e.g. Harrison et al. 2005); geography (e.g. Barnett et al. 2010; Cook 2004); history (Morgan & Trentmann 2006); urban development (Newig et al. 2008); and education (Sandlin & McLaren 2010; Hegarty 2016). This multidisciplinary academic work on ethics in consumption is fragmented, however, geographically and in terms of issues of concern. These differing disciplinary lenses tend to be contained in separate streams of research literature that are developing in parallel and in relative, but not absolute, isolation.

We contend that a broader and encompassing knowledge of consumption ethics is to be achieved by taking an interdisciplinary approach that reveals the contrasts and commonalities between disciplinary understandings, binding them together to create a holistic view of the overarching body of knowledge. As Fournier & Mick (1999) argue, approaching a phenomenon from a single vantage point creates a limited understanding. Taking an interdisciplinary perspective, however, provides multiple vantage points to create a more holistic and connected view. We also suggest that identifying juxtapositions and contradictions across disciplines will provide interesting avenues for future cross-disciplinary research.

As the negative consequences of unsustainable consumption become increasingly visible and problematic, building connected—interdisciplinary—understandings of sustainability and ethics in consumption becomes even more critical to finding sustainable solutions.

This Journal of Business Ethics Special Issue is directed towards addressing this challenge by: (1) drawing on multiple academic disciplines to present, synthesize, and contrast differing perspectives of consumption ethics; (2) rendering a coherent, multi-faceted and complex image of ethical consumers as individuals and consumption ethics within society; and (3) pushing the
understanding of this important consumption dimension forward in a way that has wide appeal and practical application.

Potential topics may include but are not limited to:

- The benefits and potential challenges in advancing trans/inter-disciplinary perspectives to consumer ethics.
- The definitional and conceptual nature of ethics and morality in consumption.
- Re-considering ethical consumption in collective and group rather than individual consumption settings.
- Macro and meso approaches to ethics in consumption, and linkages with the micro acts of consumers.
- The influence of corporations and their agents in consumers’ ethical consumption in the broader context of CSR and stakeholder multiplicity.
- Philosophical papers that tackle the ontological assumptions of ethics in consumption and/or the competing ethical frameworks underlying consumption decisions.
- The role of complex and culturally derived understandings of ethics in consumption.
- Exploring consumption and ethics in relation to ‘places and spaces’.
- The role of life transitions in ethical consumption.
- Explicit conceptualisations of ethics and morality in consumption.

We welcome theoretical and empirical papers based on a wide range of methods and theoretical perspectives, and from a broad disciplinary base (including interdisciplinary papers). Early expressions of interest and enquiries can be directed to the Special Issue editors.

**SUBMISSION PROCESS AND DEADLINES**

It is essential that authors refer to the Journal of Business Ethics guidelines for instructions on formatting and paper submissions: http://www.springer.com/social+sciences/applied+ethics/journal/10551.

**Submission due date: August 31st, 2018.**

Submission is through the Editorial Manager at http://www.editorialmanager.com/busi/.

When submitting, please indicate that your submission is for this Special Issue.

All queries should be directed to the Special Issue Guest Editors.

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