

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

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Inter-American Journal of Philosophy



It is with great pleasure that I introduce the inaugural issue of the *Inter-American Journal of Philosophy (IJP)*. This is the very first journal of philosophy devoted to inter-American philosophy with an inter-American editorial board that includes prominent philosophers from North, Central, and South Americas. The Journal's website ijp.tamu.edu is also a source of information for events in philosophy throughout the Americas, as well as a companion forum. The Journal seeks to publish articles that are focused on past, present, and possible future philosophical connections between philosophers and philosophic traditions in different parts of the Americas. Our goal is to bridge the gap in philosophy between the Americas by fostering a new philosophical dialogue, and inform readers of some of the leading-edge work in philosophy in all of the Americas.

The first few issues will contain a balance between refereed and solicited articles. We wanted our inaugural issue to represent the broad scope and mission of the Journal. The IJP is committed to genuine philosophical dialogue. Launching the first issue of this journal with an actual dialogue between Susana Nuccetelli and Jorge Gracia is especially fitting because these two leading scholars on Latin American philosophy take on one of the oldest and most difficult philosophical issues in our continent: What makes a philosophy "American" or "Latin American"? The IJP then addresses a second question: Who is doing "Latin American" philosophy? Gracia's recent publication *Latinos in America* defends a novel proposal for categorizing Latin American philosophy as an "ethnic philosophy." True to form, we enable Nuccetelli to examine critically Gracia's view and in turn Gracia offers a reply to Nuccetelli.

Guillermo Hurtado's article is the perfect essay to include in the launch of the IJP because it examines the problem that justifies its birth and existence: Why has there been no genuine philosophical dialogue between philosophers in the Americas? Hurtado provides a diagnosis and outlines the challenges that must be faced by philosophers, as well as a positive proposal for what is to be done. Hurtado argues that, as philosophers, we have much to contribute in regard to the articulation of our common ideals as well as to the amelioration of the common problems of the Americas. Examples include: immigration, borders, and human rights abuses; drug trafficking and the legal regulation of private practices; the abuse of indigenous peoples; the promotion of real democracy and the social compact; and the management and protection of natural resources in the Americas. In the current call for papers for this journal, we are trying to encourage publications on these new areas of research.

The IJP is also interested in publishing work that demonstrates the philosophical fruitfulness of comparing and setting into dialogue philosophy done in the Hispanic world and philosophy done in North America. This is the task that Craig Hanks takes on in furthering the conversation between the works of Dewey and Ortega with respect to the philosophy of technology. Not enough has been published about how these two philosophers -- who have been so influential in the Americas -- have complementary philosophies and are relevant to contemporary problems.

The Journal also seeks articles that demonstrate that the philosophy done on one side of the continent can be used as a resource in considering the sociopolitical

problems of the other side of the continent. The IJP is committed to sponsoring inter-American collaboration between philosophers from the different Americas. The article by Cassiano Terra Rodrigues (from Brasil) and Daniel Campos (from Costa Rica in a U.S. university) is a prime example of this kind of collaboration. These authors examine the question of Latin American cultural identity from a philosophical perspective informed by the logic and semiotics of North American philosopher Charles Sanders Peirce.

It is in this same inter-American spirit that we hope to publish articles in future issues on how, for example, the ideas of a prominent Latin American philosopher are suitable for analyzing the sociopolitical problems experienced in the United States, or the philosophical problems in the Analytic and Continental traditions. We are thankful to those who submitted essays for this and future issues. The quality of these submissions has been impressive, and we hope you find these essays as significant and compelling as we do. With the assistance of an excellent staff, I am confident that manuscript submissions will receive the attention they deserve and that the Journal will provide a genuine service to the profession of philosophy in all of the Americas.

I want to express my gratitude to those that helped in the founding of IJP. First, I thank the *American Philosophical Association* that provided the initial grant to jump-start the process of fulfilling this dream of many in the profession. I want to thank the prestigious members of the editorial board from all over the Americas for consenting to their role and for their support. I would not have been able to move forward on this exciting venture had I felt anything less than international support. The success and longevity of this journal and its companion website will depend upon cooperation and collaboration from all sides of the Atlantic.

I also need to thank Texas A & M University, my Department of Philosophy, and my chairman, Dan Conway, for agreeing to host the journal and providing the financial and moral support to make this Journal a reality. Moreover, a grant from the CONACYT that sponsors collaborations between Mexico and Texas A & M was most important in this regard. I would also like to thank Kim Díaz and Ronald Chichester for their time, energy, and advice in the process of building the structure and content of this history-making website. There is much goodwill and excellence that has gone into the founding of this journal. We are committed to doing the same in years to come.