Guest Editorial Preface

Special Issue on Crosspollination in the Humanities, Arts, Sciences, Technologies, and Professions:
Past and Present

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This, like the previous volume of the *International Journal of Technology Ethics,* seeks to address some salient problems and issues arising in philosophy and society from the geometrically accelerating transformations human societies are undergoing since the twentieth century. Volume 9(2) addressed problems arising in philosophy, the sciences and environmental policies. The current volume focuses on philosophy, its history, and the arts, sciences and technologies in our changing times. It includes articles by Eleanor Godway, Robert Paul Churchill, Cameron Brewer, Alejandra Iannone, and Suzanne Stern-Gillet.

All of the contributions to the present volume have been associated with the Philosophy and Society Circle, housed in the Department of Philosophy at the Carol A. Ammon College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences of Central Connecticut State University, or with the Department of Philosophy itself. In particular, all but one of the authors in this volume have participated in events the Philosophy and Society Circle organized, on Thursday, April 20, 2016, Animal Species Management; on Thursday, October 6 and Friday, October 7, 2016 The Arts, Sciences, and Humanities in the Digital World; and on Thursday, October 5, 2017, The Arts, Sciences, and Humanities: Past and Present.

The lead article for the present volume, Eleanor Godway' "Philosophy, Past and Present: John Macmurray and Our Future" focuses on Macmurray's view that philosophy is a cultural phenomenon which expresses and responds to its historical context, and in turn affects how people think and behave. On this basis, she argues that the emphasis on the subject as thinker that dominated modern philosophy leading to value knowledge for its own sake and trust theory over practice, should be replaced by the self as agent. This may enable us to find meaning in our relations with others, and face the future with hope.

A different, but not unrelated set of concerns involving crosspollination between technologies of cyberspace and the Internet, psychological sub-disciplines that deal personality and identity-formation, philosophy, and the neurosciences. can be found in Robert Paul Churchill's "Ghosts in the Machine? On the Limits of Narrative Identity in Cyberspace." Churchill's central concerns are about the effects of cyberspace technologies on personality and identity. He articulates various ways in which eager receptivity for the prospective benefits of new technologies has not been matched with sobriety about unforeseen or unintended consequences. Churchill concludes that internet meditated identity-formation has not yet attracted needed attention and recommends that careful thought be devoted to addressing two questions: What kind of persons ought we to become? and Can we be who we want to be as virtual reality and augmented reality, not to mention the 'Internet of things,' become fully integrated with human life?

The previous articles make plain that philosophy expresses and responds to its historical context and often crosspollination between philosophy and other branches of inquiry. This raises philosophical questions about time itself. In "The Problem of Time's Passage: Using Historical Arguments to Inform the Debate," Cameron Brewer addresses the problem that current physical theory seems to pose treating temporal passage as an illusion. In the debate this problem has prompted, there are two camps: A-theorists and B-theorists. two general camps have emerged: A-theorists and B-theorists. For A-theorists time passes from the past to the present to the future. By contrast, B-theorists deny that time passes and hold eternalism instead—a counterintuitive view. Brewer's article uses the history of philosophy and Dainton's version of the apparent motion argument to make better sense of this puzzle.

A different angle on crosspollination between philosophy and other branches of inquiry is offered by Alejandra Iannone's "Ballet Education for the Web 2.0 Generation: A Case for Using YouTube to Teach Elementary-School-Aged Ballet Students." From the standpoint of both a professional of dance and a trained philosopher, she notes that no one has looked at how ballet can be taught to the Web 2.0 generation using twenty-first-century technologies, calls for a shift in the pedagogical approach to teaching elementary-school-aged students ballet, suggests incorporating student-generated Time-lapse, Tutorial, Fan Review and Commentary, and Reaction YouTube videos, and argues that this cross-pollinated approach could help teachers develop specific skills in student, while also extending existing research on twenty-first-century technology as it relates to cultural identity, pedagogical approaches in arts education, and other pedagogical approaches.

Finally, Suzanne Stern-Gillet's "Aristotle, Montaigne, Kant and the Others: How Friendship Came to be Conceived as it is Conceived in the Western Tradition," takes the long view on matters of crosspollination through time. She points out that friendship is multi-faceted and multi-layered, resists easy conceptualization, can be engaged in at various levels of depth, has ethical as well as psychological norms built into it, involves commitments and makes claims upon those who engage in it and, hence, can give rise to conflicts of interests and moral values. She proceeds to articulate these points in three sections. The first provides a broad-brush examination of friendship as it is now commonly conceived. The second tests the views it involves by seeing how they apply to present-day situations. The third documents the main paradigm shift that has affected the concept explaining why Christian writers, from the Fathers of the Church onwards, preferred to dissociate themselves from Classical writers. In conclusion, the article gives reasons which caused the topic of friendship to go into eclipse after the Reformation, before springing up again in the philosophical debates that have taken place in the course of the last fifty years or so.

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