**Values and Identities: Crossing Philosophical Borders**

No society can exist without values, yet with the accelerating pace of technological and societal transformations, it is increasingly difficult to determine how values are to be understood and to be negotiated when in conflict. How do values define human identity and the different activities through which this identity finds expression?

*Values and Identities: Crossing Philosophical Borders*publishes research-led monographs and edited collections that face this problem head on. Titles in this series investigate specific forms of value and, in particular, how they interact across societal contexts to form more complex identities. The series encourages methodological distinctiveness in contemporary terms through the sustained integration of theory and conceptual issues with modes of historical and empirical research.

Areas of interest to the Series include the following:

* **The investigation of value in human identity as such**. Are some values intrinsically worthwhile? What is the relation between value and feeling? Is there a necessary connection between value and self-consciousness?
* **Aesthetic and artistic values based on what is distinctive to visual art, literature, film, other media, and to the meaning of nature**. Key issues include *why*these arts are valuable to us, questions of canonicity, and whether the distinction between ‘high’ and mass culture can be maintained in an era of radical technological transformation. A related investigation is whether art (in the most general sense) has reached an ‘end’. What implications would this have for new forms of visual, literary and filmic practice, and our understanding of older ones? Attention might also be paid to the aesthetics of nature, such as the interpretation of landscape and place.
* **Moral values. The series encourages work investigating these in their own right, and also pays special attention to the moral problems raised by contemporary transformations in science, technology, and medicine.** Issues examined could include the ethics of stem cell research, the exploration of ethical limitations of research; ethical concerns regarding the structure and delivery of health care services, and the question of disability, normality and enhancement. The status of human life in relation to controversies regarding abortion, assisted reproduction and end of life decision making is another area of interest.
* **Religious values. The series is interested in the value and grounds of religious belief and rituals, and in the philosophical significance of their expression in the arts, and in politics and regional cultural differences.** Key connections between religious prohibitions and applied ethics problems might be considered. Philosophical problems arising from historical perspectives on religious institutions and conflicts could also figure.
* **Economic values – based on principles of ownership and exchange, and the social identities and conflicts arising from these.** These values can be considered philosophically, and in terms of the theoretical significance of the contrasting historical and cultural circumstances of their expression. This might involve areas as diverse as topics in the arts, political theory, and questions of prioritization in health policies.
* **Socio-political values concerning the governance of societies and the power-relations that these embody**. Philosophical aspects of colonialism, or of gender politics and identity would be relevant. Issues arising from the very notion of ‘cultural politics’, and from contemporary and historical tensions between moral fairness and political expediency are also of interest. Issues of value arising from politics, and national, cultural, and regional identities will also be considered.
* **Educational values based on the meaning of what it is to be educated**. Should school and/or higher education be based on achieved self-improvement and self-formation, or should we look rather to the importance of vocational training to equip a workforce in a competitive global economy? Is there a conceptual model which would integrate these two approaches?
* **Scientific and technological values.** Scientific advances in biology and applied science are transforming the way we live in practical terms. But what is the status of the theories involved here? Do they illuminate the world as it is objectively structured, or is their value connected mainly to the uses to which they can be put? Are there dangers in applied science, technology, engineering, and medicine now becoming benchmarks for how other forms of knowledge are evaluated?

Projects cutting *across* these areas of interest will be especially welcome. Equally welcome would be approaches that combine methodological traditions in philosophy that are usually separate from one another.

Inquiries and requests for a proposal submission form should be directed to [tsarina.doyle@nuigalway.ie](mailto:tsarina.doyle@nuigalway.ie)