

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

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Published by the Department of Philosophy at the University of Memphis, *The Southern Journal of Philosophy* is now in its forty-eighth year. Throughout its history, the *SJP* has demonstrated its commitment to philosophical pluralism by providing a forum for the expression of philosophical ideas written from a variety of perspectives. The list of notable figures whose work has appeared in these pages—from Hubert Dreyfus and Hans-Georg Gadamer to George Santayana and Wilfrid Sellars—reflects this commitment. Indeed, the *SJP* is one of only a small handful of journals that regularly publishes original scholarship in both analytic and continental philosophy, as well as in the history of philosophy.

The jewel of every volume is the Spindel Supplement, which features the invited papers and commentaries presented at the annual Spindel Conference held each autumn at the University of Memphis. Endowed by a generous gift from the Spindel family, each of these conferences centers on a topic of a faculty member's choosing and provides a venue for discussion by the world's leading figures on that topic.

After nearly a half-century of self-publication, changes are afoot. This issue is the first to be published under the imprint of our new partner, Wiley-Blackwell. Through increased exposure and assorted logistical and cosmetic updates, this partnership will help to broaden the appeal and deepen the impact of the work published here. Already, for instance, the journal has been given a fresh look, there's a new website, authors and reviewers may now submit their manuscripts and reports via ScholarOne Manuscript's online system, and the journal's back catalogue is readily available.

But while we are pleased to begin this new chapter in our history, the *SJP* remains steadfast in its belief that the arc of philosophical progress bends toward pluralism. This commitment to first-class work undertaken from a diversity of perspectives and methodologies is evident in the composition of

our newly established editorial board, whose membership reflects a roughly equal distribution of leading analytic philosophers, continental philosophers, and historians of philosophy. A representative sample of the work of this distinguished group is on display in this issue, with each article the contribution of a board member.

Before concluding, I would like to take this opportunity to express a special thanks to Nancy Simco, whose brief history of the *SJP* kicks off the articles that follow. For more than three decades, Nancy served not only as editor of this journal in particular, but also as a strong advocate for philosophy journals in general. We hope you will join us in celebrating Nancy's contributions to the profession by making a donation to the lecture series named in her honor. Further details can be found in the *SJP* Announcements section at the back of this issue.

Now, on behalf of the editorial board, the journal's editorial assistant, Linda Sadler, our new colleagues at Wiley-Blackwell, and the faculty and staff of the University of Memphis Department of Philosophy, I welcome you to this special issue of *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*.