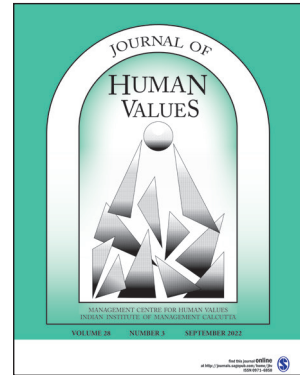


# Journal of Human Values

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**Call for papers for Special Issue:**  
Critiques of and Alternative Views on  
Business Ethics



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## About the Journal:

The *Journal of Human Values* is a peer-reviewed tri-annual journal, devoted to research on values. Communicating across several knowledge traditions and geographies, it presents a vast scholarship on values from various disciplines within humanities and social sciences. The journal seeks to encourage and foster a meaningful conversation among researchers for whom, values are no esoteric resources to be archived uncritically from the past. Thus, moving beyond cultural boundaries, the journal looks at values as something that animates the contemporary in its myriad manifestations: politics and public affairs, business and corporations, global institutions and local organizations, along with the personal and the private. With a focus on original ideas, academic rigor and conceptual exegesis, the journal carries research papers, conversations, review articles and book reviews. It serves as an important forum of dialogue and discussion for a wide range of scholars from such fields as ethics and philosophy, social and political theory, cultural studies and critical management studies.

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## About the Special Issue:

Business ethics as a discipline finds itself in a curious situation. Research interest and scholarly output has exploded over the past 25 years, and virtually all major corporations have established departments that are conspicuously concerned with ethics. Yet, the scholars that produce the research and the students that are hired into these departments lament the steady and considerable deterioration of ethical practices. While greenwashing by companies is decried, the whitewashing of the entire discipline is studiously ignored. One might even argue that the more attention ethics gets from scholars and practitioners the worse reality becomes.

Business theory seems to be plagued by toxic ideas (Giacalone, 2004), but are these same toxins (or others) also present in what the business ethics mainstream believes in and teaches? Some (Freeman/Sollars, 2021) argue that business ethicists are too far away from business practice and, on top, follow the erroneous view that business is unethical per se. Other scholars criticize that business ethics is not understood as an applied ethic, but as political science and is peopled with non-philosophers (Hühn, 2018). Maybe for that reason, business ethics becomes more and more an exercise in rule following and is understood as mere critical thinking (Seele, 2018). In that same vein, followers of Aristotelian ideas on human nature and behaviour might even ask if business ethicists are doomed to just fighting wrongdoing, or if they are meant to promote human flourishing - two very different assumptions. Barry Schwartz has picked up the Weberian (1909: 414) argument that bureaucracies crush the souls of those caught in them and argues that rules systematically drive out the very idea that individuals, and not rule givers or soulless systems, must make value judgements to be moral. What is more, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), arguably the main research area within business ethics, has falsely and seamlessly put its focus on collective social responsibility (Rönnegard, 2015). Thereby erasing the commonly held moral intuition (and widely held assumption in moral philosophy) that the seat of responsibility can only be the individual. Furthermore, as is the case in all business sciences, only “the social scientific” paradigm, where the fact-value antimony (Eastman/Bailey, 1989) is rigidly enforced, is considered worthy of attention and business ethics journals had to carve out sections for non-statisticians and non-mathematicians that they label “qualitative”. GEM Anscombe (1956) told her fellow moral philosophers that they practiced ethics without values for almost 200 years - what would she say about the state of business ethics today?

These are just some of the critiques of mainstream business ethics and getting them published is not easy. The great philosopher of economics, Mark Blaug (1992, p. 42) once wrote that, “science, for all its shortcomings, is the only self-questioning and self-correcting ideological system that man has yet devised.” Thus, in this special issue of the Journal of Human Values we welcome contributions that ask tough questions about the theories that make the mainstream of business ethics – and, as well, proposals on how to do things better.

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### Submitting your manuscript:

For the special issue, the guest editors are inviting full-length articles within the broad theme of the special issue. The length of manuscripts should ideally not exceed 5,000 words, including figures, tables and annexures. However, manuscripts will be accepted into the review process based on their merits and not because they meet a single numerical value. The Journal of Human Values is available electronically on SAGE Journals Online, a web-based online submission and peer-review system. Please read the author guidelines for manuscript submission before submitting your article: <https://journals.sagepub.com/authorinstructions/JHV>.

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- Manuscript Submission Deadline: March 15, 2023
- First reviews shared with authors: June 30, 2023
- Final accepted manuscripts due from authors: November 30, 2023
- Special Issue publication date: January 2024

For any queries or clarifications related to the special issue, you may please contact the special issue guest editor/s:

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