

Editorial Introduction: A Beginning

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The Journal of Dialogic Ethics: Interfaith and Interhuman Perspectives exists to promote dialogue within and among religious and/or interhuman traditions in response to emerging communication ethics issues in the current historical moment. The journal provides an academic home for a multiplicity of faith perspectives, welcoming both articles that speak from the particularity of a religious tradition and articles that engage interfaith dialogue directly. In addition, the journal welcomes a variety of interhuman perspectives addressing issues of dialogue. In the spirit of dialogue, the *Journal of Dialogic Ethics: Interfaith and Interhuman Perspectives* is an open-access journal publishing two issues per year.

The cover of the *Journal of Dialogic Ethics: Interfaith and Interhuman Perspectives* was drawn by Duquesne University alumnus David DeJuliis, now an assistant professor in the Department of Communications and Media Arts at Bethany College. Representing the journal on the cover of the first issue of each volume are dialogic exemplars Martin Luther King, Jr., Dorothy Day, and Martin Buber. They will be joined by the Dalai Lama, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Thich Nhat Hanh, and Elizabeth Ann Seton on the cover of the second issue of each volume. Together, their faces echo a call reminding us of the dialogic responsibility to engage with the perspectives of others—no matter the cost. Thanks to the glorious work of Dr. DeJuliis, their voices will join those of contributors to this journal for volumes to come.

The four articles offered in this inaugural issue of the *Journal of Dialogic Ethics: Interfaith and Interhuman Perspectives* were initially delivered in dialogic form as conference presentations at the 16th Biennial Communication Ethics Conference hosted by the Department of Communication & Rhetorical Studies and the Communication Ethics Institute at Duquesne University. Andre E. Johnson, Father Jordi Pujol, and Susan Petrilli served as keynote speakers.

In “Communicating Change in Chaotic Times: Toward a Maatian Understanding of Civility,” Andre E. Johnson addresses the difficult notion of civility within religious communication. Civil dialogue and communication have been advanced as necessary responses to incivility, especially uncivil acts on social media. However, Johnson recognizes an ethical dilemma in discerning how to communicate civilly with people who are dishonest, immoral, and unjust. He asks,

“How are harmony, balance, reciprocity, and order maintained amid disharmony, imbalance, and disorder?” In exploring the answer to this question, Johnson presents “an understanding of the Africana communication paradigm grounded in Maat.” The Maatian understanding of truth has implications for contemporary difficulties of incivility, including the case study of the January 6, 2021, insurrection at the United States Capitol, as framed by Johnson. The ability of Maat to bring stability to chaos offers a communication model capable of addressing incivility.

In “Facing the Divide since Babel: The Role of Faith in Urban Settings,” Father Jordi Pujol unpacks the paradoxical power of speech to prevent and simultaneously promote the good of pluralism. Writing from a Catholic perspective, Pujol explores the “division of Babel, where people were scattered in their speech because of pride,” alongside “the division of Pentecost, when the Holy Ghost sent out men of one dialect to speak all the languages of the earth and bring all men to unity.” In response to this dual capacity, Pujol investigates the role of faith and religion in communication ethics. Especially within the context of political disagreement, Pujol advances the potential of faith and religion to promote unity and appreciation of diversity.

In “The Dialogical Ethics of Romance: Lin-Manuel Miranda’s *Hamilton*,” Thomas M. Lessl also engages a unity of contraries—this time the interplay of tragedy and comedy and the dual capacity of human motivation either to abuse power or to enable democratic dialogue. Lessl’s analysis of the popular Broadway musical *Hamilton* puts “comic plots in dialogue with tragic ones” through the notion of romance in order to explore complex questions of rhetorical ethics surrounding motives. Like Pujol, Lessl recognizes the power of speech both to “build and maintain communities” and to destroy them through the abuse of power. For the sake of navigating these alternative paths, Lessl’s work calls for a dialogical political discourse capable of uniting the tragic and the comic.

In “Multicultural Societies, Monotheistic Religions, and Globalization: Semioethic Vistas,” Susan Petrilli discusses the convergence of two identities: masters of the sign and peacemakers. Her work identifies the “vocation” of the sign: the embrace of the other, the encounter with alterity, and the engagement of dialogue and listening. In particular, Petrilli addresses cultural and linguistic intersections among monotheistic religions—Christianity, Judaism, and Islam—that require dialogic efforts of “preventive peace.” Petrilli’s contribution offers a reminder that peace is only possible through dialogue, especially that which reaches beyond the boundaries of one’s own convictions.

Finally, it is my great honor to introduce Annette M. Holba, who will become the editor of the *Journal of Dialogic Ethics: Interfaith and Interhuman Perspectives* beginning with the second volume. Dr. Holba is a professor of rhetoric at Plymouth State University. Dr. Holba has previously served as the editor of *Qualitative Research Reports in Communication* (2015–2017), the guest co-editor of *New Directions for Higher Education* with Pat Bahr (2019), and the guest editor of *Pennsylvania Communication Annual* (2020), in addition to her reviewing experience for two journals and her service on the editorial board of five journals. Her academic reputation precedes her with several scholarly books, including

Philosophy of Communication Inquiry: An Introduction (2021), *Redesigning Higher Education: A Small New England Public University Changes Higher Education* (2020), *An Encyclopedia of Communication Ethics* (2018, coedited with Ronald C. Arnett and Susan Mancino), *Transformative Leisure: A Philosophy of Communication* (2013), *An Overture to Philosophy of Communication: The Carrier of Meaning* (2012, co-authored with Ronald C. Arnett), and *Philosophical Leisure: Recuperative Praxis for Human Communication* (2007). These titles are joined by two other co-authored books and four other co-edited books. The excellence of her scholarly work is widely attested, with the Eastern Communication Association recognizing both *Philosophy of Communication Inquiry: An Introduction* (2021) and *An Overture to Philosophy of Communication: The Carrier of Meaning* (2012) with the Everett Lee Hunt Book Award and the National Communication Association's Philosophy of Communication Division recognizing the latter work with the Top Book Award. Additionally, she has authored eleven book chapters, seven encyclopedia entries, and thirty-eight articles. She is well known for her service to the discipline of communication, not to mention her excellence as a violinist. Dr. Holba is simply a wonderful scholar and the right person to edit this journal.

The Journal of Dialogic Ethics: Interfaith and Interhuman Perspectives remains with the Department of Communication & Rhetorical Studies, housed in the Communication Ethics Institute, under the guidance of Chief Production Editor Janie M. Harden Fritz. Please submit full manuscripts as Microsoft Word documents to dialogicethics@duq.edu. One file should be sent, including a cover page with the author's name, current institutional affiliation and mailing address, email address, and a 75–100-word biography. The rest of the manuscript should include a 100–150-word abstract and 4–6 keywords. The paper should be 20–25 double-spaced pages in length, including references. Manuscript formatting and citations should conform to the current edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style* (Author-Date References format). Manuscripts submitted to the *Journal of Dialogic Ethics: Interfaith and Interhuman Perspectives* should be original material not under review at another journal or publication.

Ronald C. Arnett (Ph.D., Ohio University, 1978) is chair and professor of the Department of Communication & Rhetorical Studies, the Patricia Doherty Yoder and Ronald Wolfe Endowed Chair in Communication Ethics, and the Henry Koren, C.S.Sp., Endowed Chair for Scholarly Excellence (2010–2015) at Duquesne University. He has co-edited seven books and authored/coauthored twelve books, most recently *Communication Ethics and Tenacious Hope: Contemporary Implications of the Scottish Enlightenment* (2022, Southern Illinois University Press). He is the recipient of eight book awards, including the 2017 Top Book award from the National Communication Association's Communication Ethics Division and 2017 Distinguished Book award from National Communication Association's Philosophy of Communication Division for his book *Levinas's Rhetorical Demand: The Unending Obligation of Communication Ethics* and the 2013 Top Book Award for *Communication Ethics in Dark Times: Hannah Arendt's Rhetoric of Warning and Hope* from the Communication Ethics Division of the National Communication Association. In 2017, he was named Distinguished Scholar

by the National Communication Association. He is the recipient of the 2013 Presidential Award for Excellence in Scholarship from Duquesne University and is the recipient of the 2005 Scholar of the Year Award from the Religious Communication Association. Arnett was named Centennial Scholar of Communication and Centennial Scholar of Philosophy of Communication by the Eastern Communication Association in 2009 and received its Distinguished Service Award in 2019. Arnett is currently serving his third editorship for the Journal of Communication and Religion and is the former editor of the Review of Communication. He is the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Communication Association, former Executive Director of the Eastern Communication Association, and current President of the Semiotic Society of America.