

# BUSINESS ETHICS QUARTERLY



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# Business Ethics Quarterly

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## A WORD FROM THE EDITORS

### *The Empirical Quest for Normative Meaning: Empirical Methodologies for the Study of Business Ethics*

In keeping with its policy of encouraging dialogue and debate across disciplines, the Editors of *Business Ethics Quarterly* are pleased to present a set of essays that address empirical methodologies in business ethics. This collection of papers has been edited by William C. Frederick, Past President of the Society for Business Ethics, and a pioneer in the field.

Questioning the old bugaboo of positivism, this collection of essays argues that empirically grounded research methods have a normative dimension. Conversely, normatively-driven empirical studies of business ethics are viable modes of investigation that yield valid conclusions.

For those readers who are not social scientists this series of essays will be most informative and enlightening. Moreover, these papers present a challenge to nonempiricists. The challenge is not to question their methods. Rather, there is an acute need to demonstrate that there are other, non-empirical methodologies based on sound reasoning that too, yield valid results in business ethics. For philosophers and theologians in particular, our task is to reciprocate with analyses of our methodologies and their results. Then a serious interdisciplinary dialogue can begin. The Editors of *BEQ* invite our readers to accept this opportunity.

Patricia H. Werhane, *Editor-in-Chief*  
Al Gini, *Managing Editor*



# **Business Ethics Quarterly**

*Business Ethics Quarterly* is the journal of The Society for Business Ethics, a nonaffiliated international scholarly association of persons interested in business ethics. *BEQ*'s purpose is to publish scholarly articles from a wide variety of disciplinary orientations on the general subject of the application of ethics to the business community. The journal will address theoretical, methodological, and issue-based questions that can advance ethical inquiry or improve the ethical performance of business organizations. With the contemporary focus on international business, the journal is particularly interested in articles that discuss global business and economic concerns. The journal will also be interested in the value dimensions of gender, race, ethnicity, nationality and culture, and how these factors affect and are affected by business questions.

The Society for Business Ethics is pleased to acknowledge the financial support of Loyola University of Chicago in the publication of *BEQ*.

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