

From the Editor

I HAVE TWO TOPICS TO DISCUSS in this issue of *Business Ethics Quarterly*: *BEQ*'s latest journal impact score, and *BEQ*'s editorial transition.

1. Journal impact factors for 2010 were released in June 2011 by *Journal Citation Reports* (published by Thompson Reuters—formerly ISI Web of Science, publishers of the Social Science Citation Index, Arts and Humanities Citation Index, and Science Citation Index). *Business Ethics Quarterly* scored an impact factor of 3.256 on the two-year measure (the measure most commonly discussed in impact factor-based journal evaluations), and 2.085 on the five-year impact measure. Its two-year impact factor with self-citations removed (i.e., cites from *BEQ* to *BEQ* removed) is 1.462. (*JCR* does not publish a five-year self-citations removed score.) On the two-year measure, *BEQ* ranks second among thirty-eight journals in the “ethics” category, and eleventh among 101 journals in the “business” category. Your library might have database access to *Journal Citation Reports*, in which case you can see all of the details for *BEQ* and the other journals in these categories. For those of you not familiar with journal impact scores, Wikipedia has an easily accessible, short, and reasonably accurate explanation of how they work (and also of their limitations and possible manipulation).

As editor it's the “self-citations removed” score that usually interests me the most, because it gives a clue as to how much a specialty journal like *BEQ* is getting cited outside its own relatively small world of specialist scholars. (It also helps control for some of the citation-inflating practices that some journals might use, such as telling authors of submissions to cite the submitted-to journal frequently, or publishing lengthy editor's comments that cite the journal often.) On the other hand, I suspect that the “self-citations removed” measure penalizes speciality journals that cannot be expected to have the wide reach of a more topically broad-ranging journal (such as *Academy of Management Review* in management or *Philosophy & Public Affairs* in philosophy—although this year *BEQ* surpassed *P&PA* on the two-year score, though not on the five-year score). (One needs to read down through the details of a *Journal Citation Reports* listing to find the “self-citations removed” score for a particular journal; it's not in the summary listing of impact factors that's most obvious in *JCR*.)

2. With this issue of *Business Ethics Quarterly* I am ending my tenure as Editor in Chief. It has been six years since I took on the editor's position. The task has been more than rewarding, and I have enjoyed working with a wide range of other editors, authors, and reviewers. But at this point I am more than ready to return to a more normal life of research and teaching, without the additional responsibility of seeing that another issue of *BEQ* appears every quarter. I leave *BEQ* in the able hands of my successor, Denis Arnold, who has been serving as one of *BEQ*'s associate editors. Denis is committed to maintaining *BEQ*'s multidisciplinary focus and high standards, and I am confident he and his team of associate editors will be able

to do so. You will note that, unlike some journals, with this transition *BEQ* is not making wholesale changes in its editorial staff; all of the associate and managing editors you saw on the previous issue's masthead continue in their work for *BEQ*.

As I've said sometimes in the past, *Business Ethics Quarterly* depends on a large number of people for its success. And there are several of them I want to single out for being particularly helpful during these last six years. Al Gini ran *BEQ*'s book review section during my entire term as editor, which very helpfully left me to concentrate on the main article content and general journal management matters. Norm Bowie joined *BEQ* early on in my tenure as my first associate editor, and I'm very appreciative of the help and advice he provided over several years (including stepping in to help out occasionally even after he no longer was formally an associate editor, such as during times when *BEQ* had an unusually high manuscript load). Marshall Schminke signed on as an associate editor not too long after Norm Bowie did, and besides doing normal associate editor work, Marshall worked hard to increase *BEQ*'s influence and recognition in a larger world of social science-oriented scholars. Andreas Scherer became *BEQ*'s first non-American associate editor, and together with more recently recruited Guido Palazzo broadened the range of scholarly competencies among our editors in addition to helping *BEQ* have more of an impact outside the U.S.A. Jerry Goodstein, Bruce Barry, Alan Strudler, Heather Elms, and Wayne Norman all willingly responded to my suggestion that they might make good associate editors, and I am grateful as well for the assistance and insight they all provide. And Denis Arnold has, over the last year or so, been a diligent and excellent student in my private "how to run a journal" tutorial, for which I'm grateful (as it means I get to retire from the job). Libby Scott has reliably and thoughtfully fulfilled the managing editor's position, becoming an expert on the intricacies of our manuscript processing system and on the typical questions and problems authors encounter in preparing manuscripts; it has been very easy for me to rely on her diligent work for *BEQ*. George Leaman, Greg Swope, and the other staff at Philosophy Documentation Center have been reliable partners in the actual production and distribution of *BEQ*, and—importantly for me—always ready to listen to and discuss ideas about how to improve *BEQ* in one way or another. It is nice to deal with a publisher of the sort that, when I call or write, I know I'm dealing with the appropriate key decision makers who also are willing to make their own investment in *BEQ*. And former editor in chief George Brenkert was particularly helpful in my first years as editor, willingly and patiently answering my questions and offering advice. I also obviously must thank all of the scholars who have served, at one time or another, on *BEQ*'s editorial board, as ad hoc reviewers, or as authors. The journal could not be produced, with the quality it has, without your help. I hope that you will continue to offer *BEQ* your support and interest in the future. Finally, I have appreciated the formal and informal support for *BEQ* provided by the Society for Business Ethics and the various members of its governing board over the last six years.

As for me, I will continue with *BEQ* in the new role of Senior Associate Editor, and otherwise will get back to some research and writing projects that largely went "on hold" about six years ago.

Gary R. Weaver, Editor in Chief