

SATS - NORTHERN EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PHILOSOPHY

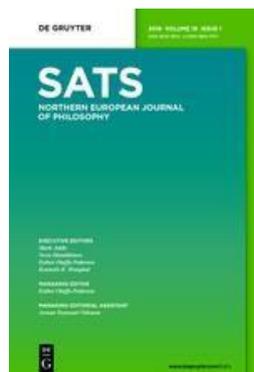
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Call for Papers to the special issue of *Sats. Northern European Journal of Philosophy*

Environmental Ethics

The demand to address the environmental implications of human activity has entered everyday life with unprecedented force. Climate change has been the major driving force but connected yet partially independent problems, notably loss of biodiversity, deforestation, and air- and plastic pollution have also been the focus of attention. Long-standing environmentalist and activist concerns have increasingly entered mainstream politics and public policy making, while also becoming a more visible and vocal part of consumer behaviour, advertising and the profiling of companies and products.



Environmental issues come with an epistemic demand to take stands on evidence that most of us have little capacity to judge independently of experts. They pose a political demand to find one's place in politicized debates over facts, as well as over the nature and extent of necessary collective and individual measures. The growing awareness of environmental issues also places demands on people's quotidian choices of food, housing, heating, electricity, recreation and consumer items.

The growing availability of research on the effects of different policy and consumer choices exerts pressure on people in both their private and professional roles, to keep up with and evaluate new information, weigh environmental considerations against other things that are deemed valuable or necessary, and weigh different kinds of environmental impact against each other. Even for individuals, companies and institutions strongly committed to a range of environmental goals the situation is one of complex trade-offs where consequences for one's own life and the life of relevant communities can be difficult to evaluate.

Casually framing the issue as a conflict between rampant consumer capitalism and more sustainable, less selfish choices is problematic insofar as it evokes a picture of the issue as one of selfishness or weakness of will on the part of politicians, economic elites or private citizens. Such moralism has its place in activism and critical self-reflection but makes it easy to disregard the complex entanglements that make up a form of life and that make changing it difficult.

In contemporary affluent societies, environmentally unsustainable practices are to a considerable extent upheld by practices of care, concern and responsibility. Caring for a family in a middleclass setting is often bound up with big cars, spacious housing, and long commutes to work. Being good at one's job means, for many people, contributing more to unsustainable production, trade and consumption. Politicians have to trade off jobs and economic growth against environmental benefits, urban planners need to deal with the increased carbon emissions resulting from rapid urbanization and company executives may find interventions heavily constrained by shareholder demands. At the other extreme a large part of the global population lives in conditions where a decrease in

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standards of living is not a sustainable goal but where the road out of poverty is lined with environmental hazards.

Much environmental damage therefore occurs in the pursuit of genuine goods by those responsible for family members, employees and co-workers, local communities, infrastructures, built environments and public funds, among other things. Large areas of communal life need to be locally and globally renegotiated in order to facilitate the negotiation between different forms of responsibility and alleviate some of the ethical double binds created by the environmental crisis.

Contributions on environmental ethics are invited from philosophers and scholars in allied fields, with a particular emphasis on renegotiations and reconsiderations of practices, norms, virtues, values, forms of life, ideals of personhood and lifestyle, narrative frames, and the institutional underpinnings of contemporary life. Possible themes include, but are not limited to, the good life, personhood, security, infrastructures, technology, nature, ontology, work, ambition, poverty, parenting, education, community, and social justice.

Proposals for submissions in the form of 500 word abstracts should be submitted by email to nora.hamalainen@upce.cz by **April 2021** and full papers through <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/sats> by **September 2021**.

Please note in the author's cover letter during submission that the paper is intended for this special issue. Submissions should conform to our author guidelines (<http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/sats>).

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