

# SATS - Northern European Journal of Philosophy

**Call for Papers to the special issue:**

## Philosophical Perspectives on Trust and Distrust in Contemporary Societies

**Editors: Esther Oluffa Pedersen and Arman Teymouri Niknam**

Trust and distrust are basic in all human interaction. Trust as well as distrust help us act in the present and bridge the uncertainty of the future. The reality of trust and distrust in social relations is unquestionable. But our conceptual means to understand the social ontology of trust and distrust are all but clear. How do we describe and explain the multifaceted social phenomena related to humans reaching out in trust or acting from distrust? Furthermore, the core conceptions of trust and distrust are used to describe human interaction in a variety of social spheres. Thus it seems that we employ the language of trust and distrust in the sphere of close human relations as well as in more or less impersonal interactions within the civil society and in the sphere of political institutions. This opens for questions as to whether trust and distrust between family members, within debates in civil society and towards political institutions are examples of the same phenomenon or should be understood as distinct types of trust and distrust.



The fabric of contemporary societies contains content for conflict over use of technology, artificial intelligence, and natural resources, as well as over political leadership and social roles, and last, but by no means least, conflicts over the status of human rights and identity. Understanding how the social phenomena of trust and distrust can influence such potential conflicts makes the philosophical comprehension and scrutiny of trust and distrust central to the task of modern philosophy. Furthermore, it underscores how trust and distrust are deeply context dependent phenomena.

As editors of *SATS – Northern European Journal of Philosophy*, we welcome abstracts related to our forthcoming special issue on trust and distrust in contemporary societies. We are especially interested in philosophical scrutiny of how trust and distrust are formed by as well as form three main spheres of human life:

- Trust in the interpersonal sphere
- Trust in the civil sphere
- Trust in the political sphere

### EXECUTIVE EDITORS

Mark Addis, London  
Nora Hämmäläinen, Pardubice  
Esther Oluffa Pedersen, Roskilde  
Kenneth R. Westphal, Istanbul

### MANAGING EDITOR

Esther Oluffa Pedersen, Roskilde

### MANAGING EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Arman Teymouri Niknam, Copenhagen

### BOOK REVIEW EDITORS

Martin Friis Nielsen, Copenhagen  
Arman Teymouri Niknam, Copenhagen

Papers can be related to several of these spheres at the same time. Yet, we invite contributors to focus their paper mainly on trust from either an interpersonal, civil societal or political frame of reference. We are not interested in historical analyses that solely deal with how philosophers have handled trust in the past. Rather we wish to include papers that focus on the challenges and possibilities facing issues of trust in our own time, which of course does not preclude using insights from the canon of philosophy.

As a broad and inclusive philosophy journal, it is our mission to promote philosophical dialogue across disciplinary boundaries, within philosophy and with neighboring fields. We therefore particularly welcome abstracts for the special issue that can show the relevance of examinations of trust in contemporary societies from a philosophical oriented frame of reference in a way which clearly uses insights and/or methods from other fields.

Topics and questions can include, but are not limited to:

- How does the rise and increasingly ubiquitous nature of digital technologies affect trust in interpersonal relationships?
- Which role does distrust play in human relationships?
- How do the intense debates surrounding so-called identity politics and discrimination influence trust in civil society?
- Is environmental activism furthering the ground for much-needed progress and trust in a better future or merely creating unhealthy divisions and distrust?
- In which ways are we experiencing a crisis of trust in Western democracies due to the threats of climate change, fake news, and populism?
- How can we build trust in democratic institutions locally and globally?

**The special issue will be published in spring 2024.**

Full papers should be submitted at <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/sats> no later than **August 14th 2023**. Proposals for submissions and any questions regarding the special issue are welcome. Please direct your queries to Associate Professor Esther Oluffa Pedersen: [estherop@ruc.dk](mailto:estherop@ruc.dk).

Submissions should conform to author guidelines, please see (<https://www.degruyter.com/journal/key/sats/html>)

Editors:

Esther Oluffa Pedersen, Associate Professor, Department of Communication and Arts, Roskilde University

Arman Teymouri Niknam, PhD, assistant editor of SATS - *Northern European Journal of Philosophy*