In the Sphere of the Personal New Perspectives in the Philosophy of Persons

Rolf Ahlers, James Beauregard, Brian J Buckley, Juan Manuel Burgos, Robert F. Devall Jr., Robert G. Fiedler, Myron Jackson, Jeffrey M. Jackson, Denis Larrivee, Mackenzie Lefoster, Philippe - Edner Mar **Edited by James Beauregard (Rivier University), Simon Smith (University of Surre)**

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"The book reflects the style and objectives of 13th International conference on Persons: to think from the person and about the person from a unitary and pluralistic personalist tradition. The book seeks not only to look back to the past but also to the future, addressing the problems of our social context, something achieved thanks to the contributions of both young and established authors.

"The text is very rich. Along with reflections based upon classics like Freud, Nietzsche, Pringle-Pattison, Schelling, Descartes or Bergson, the effort is appreciated to address the problems of the present. Only as a sample we can mention the proposals on identity, on the origin of knowledge, the connection between neuroethics and impersonalism, the current problems posed by sexuality or the review of the dynamic tension between public and private. For this multiplicity and wealth, the book will interest all those who want to delve into the validity of the notion of person in our society."

Professor Juan Manuel Burgos, University San Pablo CEU, Madrid

Summary

The papers in this collection were originally presented at the 13th International Conference on Persons, held at the University of Boston in August 2015. This biennial event, founded by Thomas O. Buford and Charles Conti in 1989, attracts a host of international scholars, both the venerable and the aspiring. It is widely regarded as the premier event for those whose research concerns the philosophical tradition known as 'personalism'.

That tradition is, perhaps, best known today in its American and European manifestations, although there remains a small but fiercely defended stronghold in Britain. Personalism is not an exclusively Western development, however; its roots are also found in India, China, and Japan.

What unites these disparate intellectual cultures may seem quite small. There is little, if any, methodological or doctri-

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nal consensus among them. They are all, however, responses to the impersonal and depersonalising forces perceived to be at work in philosophy, theology, and, most recently, the natural and political sciences. Their common aim is to place persons at the heart of these discourses, to defend the idea that persons are the metaphysical, epistemological, and moral 'bottom line', the vital clue to knowledge of self, reality, and all conceivable values. The authors in this collection do not simply reflect upon this tradition, they put it to work on a range of philosophical and theological problems, both classical and contemporary; problems of free will, personal identity, and the nature of reality, as well as the very current concerns of environmental philosophers, bio- and neuro-ethicists. Their perspectives, too, are many and varied, so offer profound insights into key debates among other philosophical traditions, such as the Kantian, Hegelian, phenomenological, and process schools.

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