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EDITOR'S WORDS

The current issue (volume 11, no. 1, January 2020) is the first one when the Journal enters the second decade since its debut in January 2010. There is one newly implemented approach to the constructive-engagement emphasis of the Journal and its emphasis on exploration of general theory and methodology of comparative philosophy: besides its standard and primary “Articles” sessions in all the issues where the peer-reviewed unpublished original articles appear, the Journal’s distinct “Constructive-Engagement Dialogue” section sequence, whose sections appear in some issues, is to take one of the two forms, i.e., its “author-critic” form and its “theoretic-issue-exploring” form, instead of the former form only. The former form is to focus on one selected previously-published writing (an article published in this or some other journal or a book) with one (or more than one) critic’ engaging commentary article(s) and the author’s reply article, as shown by the previous “Constructive-Engagement Dialogue” sections in the past issues where the sections appear. In contrast, the latter form is to address one significant across-the-board theoretic or methodological issue or topic in comparative philosophy with different contributing authors to explore the addressed jointly-concerned issue.

Through the “theoretic-issue-exploring” form of “Constructive-Engagement Dialogue” section sequence, the Journal is to address a number of significant across-the-board theoretic or methodological issues or topics in doing philosophy in cross-tradition engaging way, each of which constitutes one issue-concerned “Constructive-Engagement Dialogue” series, although one issue can be identified as a sub-issue of a more comprehensive major issue. At this moment, the Journal has planned to launch two major theoretic-issue-exploring sequences: (1) one is on the major issue of normative bases in cross-tradition engagement in philosophy, which covers such sub-issues as those of objectivity, of truth pursuit, of (in)commensurability, etc.; (2) the other is on the major issue of philosophical interpretation in cross-tradition engagement in philosophy, which covers such sub-issues as those of the relation between textual analysis and philosophical interpretation, of external-resources employment, of generalization, etc. There is neither fixed order of which issues or sub-issues are to be first addressed and nor fixed amount of how much engaging discussion is to be carried out; these are sensitive to need, readiness, and some other relevant situational considerations.

A “Constructive-Engagement Dialogue” section series that takes the “theoretic-issue-exploring” form on one theoretic topic will start with one (or more than one) article (in view of its intrinsic value and constructive role in generating engaging discussion) in one issue of the Journal and continues in some of the subsequent issues;

these contributing articles to one “Constructive-Engagement Dialogue” section series on an addressed topic will engage with each other, for the sake of enhancing our understanding and treatment of the topic, in various ways (either in a way of direct critique, or in a complementary way with focus on distinct aspects, or in a way of further elaborating and developing a certain point of agreement—in a word, in a constructively-engaging way).

The current issue of the Journal debuts the foregoing “theoretic-issue-exploring” form of “Constructive-Engagement Dialogue” section sequence with the “issue of objectivity” series. This “Constructive-Engagement Dialogue” section series starts from this issue (with its subtitle “the issue of objectivity series (1)”): it begins with Professor Dagfinn Føllesdal’s insightful and meticulous article “Objectivity”, which suggests and explains a distinct view on objectivity in a cross-tradition engaging way: the author addresses the issue of objectivity (what it is and whether it is achievable) in view of both scientific way (tradition) and other non-scientific ways, and of resources in both analytic tradition and “Continental” tradition (such as those from Edmund Husserl) in philosophy. The next issue of the Journal is to include its “Constructive-Engagement Dialogue” section continuing the exploration of this issue [with its subtitle “the issue of objectivity series (2)"].

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