

# **The Dialogical Dimension of Corporate Responsibility: An Analysis and an Application to the Circular Economy**

## **Abstract**

Corporate Social Responsibility scholarship has grown significantly in recent decades. However, a philosophical reflection on what the concept of responsibility means and entails is still underdeveloped in the management literature. Typically, ethicists have opposed an “ethics of conviction” (Kant), to an “ethics of responsibility” (Jonas), but this distinction seems to miss the dialogical dimension of a teleological ethics and its implications for the concept of responsibility. Responsibility must be understood as a “response” to a “quest” for an authentic realisation. This implies that the dialogical dimension innerves the normative dimension of responsible behaviour, at the individual and social level. We aim to show how a transcendental conception can grasp the limit of the subject, but also of that which surrounds it. Indeed, the proper act of consciousness consists in grasping the limit, as awareness of one’s own limitedness, which defines the relationship between identity and difference, the latter indicating not only the other subject, but also the lifeworld, also interpreted as ecosystem. In light of this transcendental conception, we assess the circular economy model under these two respects: its reconceptualization of the concept of waste and resources and the notion of stewardship towards the ecosystem.