

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### TEACHING ETHICS TO ECONOMISTS: CHALLENGES AND BENEFITS WORKSHOP 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Event organized by Reteaching Economics, in conjunction with QA Higher Education

Convenors: Dr. Ioana Negru, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu  
Dr. Craig Duckworth, QA Higher Education  
Dr. Imko Meyenburg, Anglia Ruskin University

The relationship between ethics and economics has always been intricate, sometimes hostile or nonexistent. If Adam Smith has established the discipline of political economy as a moral science, the subsequent developments in economics such as the marginal revolution, the emergence of neoclassical economics, etc, have transformed the discipline into a neutral and non-values/non-judgements science. The debate on the role of ethics and morality in economics by economists such as James Buchanan or Amartya Sen has exerted notable influences in the direction of a change in economics. Amartya Sen, in *On Ethics and Economics* (1987: 7) stated that the “nature of modern economic theory has been substantially impoverished by the distance that has grown between economics and ethics”.

During the last 30 years, the conversation between economic theory and philosophy and ethics has been restarted, after a period of interruption, generated by the positivist era in economics. We cannot ignore, in this revival, the role of the recent financial crisis that has brought an interest in economists’ applied ethics. We would like to emphasize also the recent deontological calls for a professional economic ethics by DeMartino (2011) and DeMartino and McCloskey (2016) and their efforts to build a sub-discipline in economics such as Professional economics ethics.

Against the popular idea amongst the economists - that ethics has no place in economics, Dolfma and Negru (2019) have argued recently for a distinction between ethics in economics, ethics of economics and ethics of economists and challenged the idea that utilitarianism can be the dominant ethical position in economics. The agenda of the book gravitates around the ethical formation of economists through teaching, research, policy-making, media, etc. Taking this book as a point of departure, we pose the question: Is Ethics important for the study of the economy?

The workshop calls for contributions addressing the following themes:

- how is ethics taught to economists (based on their specialisms: accountants, managers, marketing, finance economists, etc);
- is ethics needed in the economics curriculum at undergraduate and postgraduate level and should ethics be taught differently?

- how do we teach economists various ethical theories such as utilitarianism, deontology or virtue-ethics?
- can ethics be trained or learned?
- what would an ethics course for economists look like?
- can economists practice alternative visions of ethics?
- can we dialogue with mainstream economists regarding the teaching of ethics?

Please send a maximum 500 words abstract to Ioana Negru at [ioana.negru@ulbsibiu.ro](mailto:ioana.negru@ulbsibiu.ro) by 1<sup>st</sup> of November and the notification of acceptance will be received by participants by 15<sup>th</sup> of November.

The workshop will take place on the premises of the University of Ulster on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020.