

Call for Papers

DERRIDA, BUSINESS, ETHICS

Centre for Philosophy and Political Economy, University of Leicester, 14-16 May 2008

The work of deconstruction and the works of Jacques Derrida – and in particular his later ‘ethical’ works – continue to animate considerations of the possibilities of ethics today. While in some circles discussions of Derrida’s ethics are based on little more than rumour and hearsay, elsewhere we can sense the need, following Derrida, for both an urgent response to the contemporary situation and the patient restitution of the ethical tradition. A poisonous gift, in the form of a set of texts by Derrida and those searching with him for an ethics without reassurance, without programme, without alibi. Impossible ethics? Ethics of the impossible? And at the same time an ethics of the most concrete, the most practical, the most demanding. An ethics offering no safe haven from, or in the name of, the urgent and immediate practical demands of today.

For three days in May 2008 we will hold a symposium that will consider what Derrida can and cannot contribute to business ethics. Presentations at this meeting might involve close readings of business ethics texts or texts of relevance to business ethics, in the manner of or drawing on concepts and strategies of reading from Derrida. Alternatively, they might engage with particular aspects of Derrida’s work in order to shed light on business ethics or to illuminate particular aspects of business ethics in the light of his work. The symposium will be an open forum, without a predetermined programme or position *vis-à-vis* Derrida. It will follow the ‘Levinas, Business, Ethics’ symposium that was held at the Centre for Philosophy and Political Economy in October 2005 (www.le.ac.uk/ulsm/cppe/levinas), from which papers were subsequently published in the July 2007 edition of *Business Ethics: A European Review* (vol. 16/3). While building on the success of that earlier meeting, this session will be open to all seeking to learn more about Derrida, business and ethics.

Submission Details

Abstract outlines of no more than 1,000 words should be submitted in Word format as an email attachment to Campbell Jones (c.jones@le.ac.uk). Abstracts are due by 30 November 2007 and full papers will be due 31 March 2008.

Publication

Papers accepted for presentation at the workshop will be considered for publication in a special issue on Derrida and Business Ethics that will appear in the journal *Business Ethics: A European Review* (www.blackwellpublishing.com/journals/beer).

Attendance

In order to give speakers time to present their ideas and to facilitate interaction and discussion of papers, attendance will be strictly limited. Early registration is therefore advised. For further information and registration details visit www.le.ac.uk/ulsm/cppe/derrida.