



AME Forum

Volume 27, Number 2, Fall 2011

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AME Op Ed Page to go "Live" Soon

A message from Sharon Lamb:

I've been honored to serve this year as President of AME and look forward to the next two years. I'd like to take this Forum opportunity to tell membership about an idea that will finally come to fruition on our web-site, an Op Ed section. This section on our web page will be a place for debate, discussion, and comment, a place where AME voices can be heard about important topics.

The idea for an Op Ed page or AME blog began over 10 years ago when I first was on the Executive Board. Then President Monica Taylor asked me to make a proposal to the board with regard to how AME work could reach a broader audience through the media. I presented several ideas and concerns were raised with regard to whether we could ever agree on one AME position, whether we might have a public relations volunteer who matched up members to journalists when news developed that could benefit from a moral ed/moral development perspective, and whether we could state opinions publicly about certain topics given our 501C status. After that meeting in Glasgow, the idea of media outreach was dropped.

A few years later, the second time I was on the board, I became concerned when I learned that juveniles in the United States who had committed murders were being executed. Against execution in any form, I was particularly disturbed by this and discovered there was an important Supreme Court case (Roper v Simmons, 2005) that was going to decide whether it was illegal. Several organizations were writing briefs to the court that were in effect letters that presented both an opinion and research to support that opinion. I spoke to a person

(continued on next page)

AME OpEd Page to go "Live" Soon (cont.)

from an anti-death penalty NGO who was organizing the briefs for the lawyers presenting the case and he said that such a statement from the Association for Moral Education would be very helpful. So, at that time, I researched with then President Steve Thoma whether or not we could do this as an organization, feeling fairly certain that the vast majority of members would agree that the U.S. should not be executing juveniles. I believed we had something unique to say about these juveniles and about their moral development post adolescence. But our tax status precluded such an effort. Instead I collected names via Larry Nucci's listserv and sent a petition saying that we were all moral development researchers and educators but did not use AME's name. The Supreme Court did make the right decision to not execute juveniles.

Now, as President, I have introduced an idea of an Op Ed page. My dream for this page is not just that AME members can discuss with each other various theoretical disagreements in the field, but that we can write and respond to essays that look outward to important current events, practices in the field, and issues. I talked to the board about this and board members Larry Blum and Bruce Maxwell presented a proposal that was passed last June (we have online meetings and voting). Since then a committee led by Communications Coordinator Eric Marx and including Larry Blum, Don Reed, Elizabeth Vozzola, and Kaye Cook have been "meeting" via emails to develop the process by which these editorials will be solicited, chosen, and vetted.

My vision for this page on our web site is that members write their opinions about important topics (with the disclaimer at the top of the page that the opinion is not an expression of the official position of AME) and that other members and the public have an opportunity to respond. When there is a particularly relevant and important essay, the committee members send the URL to other listservs and blogs they may be reading. This is one of the ways the smart and important opinions of our members can reach a wider audience, while it is also a way for us to continue throughout the year the great discussions we have at conferences.

Very soon we will have our first op ed piece up and ready for your comments. We invite you to propose ideas to Eric Marx or me with regard to writing an essay (about 600-800 words) on a topic of wide interest that also has a moral education/philosophy/psychology slant. Do you want to respond to Diane Ravitch's article on School Reform in the *New York Review of Books*? Do you want to argue against evolutionary views of moral development? What is wrong with "three strikes and you are out" policies in schools? In treating kids gone wrong, have we lost sight of the fact that kids develop? Given the possible effect of sustained playing of violent video games on development, should they be protected as "free speech" (as the Supreme Court recently ruled)?

I'm very excited about this new project and hope you will start thinking of opinions to share that will stir the community to discussion and be a resource for anyone who happens to come across our web site when searching for more information. Please let me know your thoughts, either by email or over a cup of one of the many wonderful teas we'll be tasting in Nanjing. I look forward to seeing many of you there for what looks to be an exceptional conference!

Note: Please see the "Call for AME Op Ed Page Contributors" on p. 6.

JME Celebrates 40 Years

JOURNAL OF MORAL EDUCATION 40TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL ISSUE: Moral Learning: Integrating the Personal, Professional and Political

The *Journal of Moral Education* (JME) has now been published for 40 years. Most of its annual volumes since 1983 have included a special issue, which has focussed on a neglected dimension, or new topic, or offered an overview of certain aspects of the field. The 40th Anniversary Special Issue is distinctive in that it addresses the integration of the personal, professional and political in moral learning.

Moral education must be about moral learning; they go hand in hand. But as moral educators we are more used to teaching others and researching their learning and moral development than to reflecting and writing formally on the interrelation of our self- and professional identities and about our own moral learning. We are not just professionals with an interest (and supposedly some expertise) in morality and education, we also have gendered and culturally differentiated personal and professional lives, in which there are moral issues, puzzles, conflicts. We are situated in diverse political and institutional contexts whilst participating in an interdisciplinary professional field and interacting in an increasingly globalised world. How do we integrate the personal, professional and political in our moral learning?

In this Special Issue, published in September 2011, 15 invited contributors at different stages in their careers, from a range of disciplinary and cultural backgrounds, and from around the world, offer their academic analytic autobiographical reflections. Through their stories, narratives, analyses, questions and concerns, and across many diverse topics central to moral education today, we see how they each confront their own moral learning—personally, professionally, politically. The Special Issue includes considered reflections from some AME members who have been centrally involved in moral education and development for their lifetime careers and some moving memories and accounts, as well as posing questions for future work.

The 40th Anniversary Special Issue includes a brief publishing history of the *JME* and its Editorial Board (1971-2011), as well as a list of special issues and their guest editors since 1983. It is available as part of AME membership for 2011, by subscription through its publisher's website (<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/carfax/03057240.html>), or can be purchased as a separate item at the special rate of £20.

A session devoted to the JME 40th Special Issue will take place at 13.30 on 25th October at the *JME's* 40th anniversary conference with AME and the Asia-Pacific Network for Moral Education in Nanjing, China (see elsewhere in this Forum issue). Come and meet most of the authors in the Special Issue, who will each briefly present what they consider to be the key idea of their papers. Audience interaction is invited to comment on and to raise questions about their observations, experiences, issues and challenges and to consider how the *JME* and our field might, in future, take more account of the interrelation of the personal, professional and political.



Nanjing -- soon to be filled with talk of moral matters . . .



Notices

2012 AME Conference. Our 38th Annual Conference will be in San Antonio, Texas, November 8 – 10, 2012. The theme of the conference will be “Civility and Incivility: Respectful Disagreements in a Divided World.” Look for information in the Nanjing conference programme, and soon on the AME Website.

The International Society for Justice Research (ISJR), <http://www.isjr.org/>, fosters productive discussions of new ideas, research, and theories relevant to justice phenomena. They are a group of scholars who encourage international and interdisciplinary cooperation in developing justice theory and research. The exchange and dissemination of this scientific information and creation of scientific networks is allowed by the conduct of biennial ISJR scientific conferences, publication of articles and book reviews in the *Social Justice Research journal*, publication of announcements and updates of interest in the ISJR Newsletter and informal discussions (by means of a listserv) among eminent justice scholars from around the world and representing different disciplines.

To let us know about an event or organization, please contact Eric Marx, eric.marx@acu.edu.au

If you notice mistakes or inaccuracies or missing information on the AME Website, please contact Eric Marx, eric.marx@acu.edu.au, so that we can make a correction. Thank you!

Nanjing Almost Upon Us...

NANJING2011: JOINT AME, JME AND APNME CONFERENCE ***Cultivating Morality: Human Beings, Nature and the World*** **24-28 October, 2011**

AME members will be aware that this year's 37th annual conference, in Nanjing, is being held in conjunction with the Asia-Pacific Network for Moral Education's 6th annual conference, and a celebration of the Journal of Moral Education's 40th anniversary. This will be the first time AME has been held outside North America and Europe, marking a great leap forward in opportunities for East-West dialogue in moral education and development when we meet in Nanjing, 24-28 October, 2011.

Those of us from the APNME Executive Committee who comprise the International Organising Committee have been committed to working towards the conference for two and a half years, in close collaboration with Professor Jin Shenghong and his team in Nanjing Normal University, responsible for the local arrangements. We are grateful for the support of members of APNME, AME and JME and financial support of the AME/JME Scholarship Awards and the JME Subsistence Programme, as well as from NNU. Organising the conference across the world's time-zones and in an emerging and developing economy with its own strong academic traditions and cultural practices, which are rapidly changing, has been challenging, but we are confident that those of you who were able to make the decision to come to China for this exciting conference will have many new, fascinating and memorable experiences, both academically and culturally. We expect around 300 participants, with accompanying persons of all ages, and from 33 countries in every region of the world, the great majority staying for 4-7 days in the well-appointed Nanjing International Conference Centre hotel.

The conference timetable (see www.nanjing2011.org and www.nsddys.cn) details the five-day academic programme of pre-conference workshops, school visit, the Kohlberg Memorial Lecture to be given by Professor Wan Junren, three additional plenary speakers – Dwight Boyd, Heesoon Bai, and Derek Sankey – the parallel sessions of symposia, papers and roundtables, poster presentations, and special events recognising the JME's 40th anniversary. Each organisation will be holding its annual board and community meetings. There is also a full inclusive cultural arts programme in the evenings, excursions in and around Nanjing on Wednesday afternoon, the Awards Ceremony, entertainments and a Chinese Banquet, and, additionally, for those who remain the opportunity to dine downtown on Friday evening and to take a one-day trip to Yangzhou at the confluence of the Yangtze and Grand Canal. We also hope to offer a morning programme for accompanying persons.

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Nanjing (cont.)

As you write your papers, get your visas, pack your bags and journey to China prepare for a conference experience of community, encounter, conversation, dialogue across and within discourses and disciplines, meeting old colleagues and making new friends. We aim for clear communication, attentive listening, respect for each of our traditions and practices, new and transformative learning, and renewed directions for moral education. We wish you safe travelling and shall be waiting to welcome you amid the autumnal hues of Purple Mountain when you arrive in Nanjing for *Cultivating Morality: Human Beings, Nature and the World*.

Monica J. Taylor, on behalf of the International Organising Committee: Jin Shenghong, Derek Sankey, Chris Drake, Minkang Kim and Li Maosen

The programme/timetable for the AME 37th Annual Conference in Nanjing can be viewed at www.nanjing2011.org

Call for AME Op Ed Page Contributors

The Op Ed committee would like to solicit AME members to write short essays of an op-ed sort to be posted on our new Op Ed page (*see article on p. 1*). The essays would be about 600-800 words, on a topic that is both current and of wide interest, with a moral education/philosophy/psychology slant. Once posted on the Op Ed page, AME members and the public would have opportunity to reply to the essay.

If you are interested in writing such an essay, please send your request, specifying the topic you would like to write on, to Eric Marx, eric.marx@acu.edu.au

An individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust, and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment in order to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the highest respect for the law.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

AME Dissertation Award Call for Nominations

The Association for Moral Education gives an annual Kuhmerker Dissertation Award for an outstanding doctoral dissertation (eg PhD, Ed.D., Psy.D. etc). The annual award gives recognition and commendation to doctoral students addressing work that informs, develops, or relates to, the understanding of moral development, moral functioning or moral education. The AME invites submissions from all fields, including psychology, philosophy, pedagogy, cultural studies and so forth. The AME invites dissertations in both English and in languages other than English, and from recent doctoral students of any nationality.

Authors do not need to be a member of the Association to receive the award, but we would like the recipient to attend the AME annual conference for a formal presentation. The award includes an attractive plaque and, if the recipient attends the conference, their conference fee and banquet fee will be paid by the AME and they will receive \$500 to help with hotel and travel expenses.

The dissertation must have been completed and the degree awarded within 3 years (36 months) prior to the submission deadline.

The next submission deadline is JANUARY 15 2012. The committee's decision will be announced publicly and the Award presented, at the next AME conference, which is in NOVEMBER 2012 in Texas, USA.

The submission process is in two parts. By JANUARY 15 2012 you are requested to provide a 3000 word summary of the dissertation, in English, in a pdf file. The Dissertation Award Committee will shortlist appropriate submissions for progression to the next stage. Those shortlisted will be invited to submit their complete dissertation in the original language, as a pdf file, by February 20 2012.

The Dissertation Committee will draw upon scholars with appropriate language skills to judge dissertations presented in a language other than English, once the shortlisting of initial proposals in English is completed.

To submit your dissertation you need to submit the following by January 15:

- A letter of introduction, in English, which explains what you consider to be the most important contributions that your dissertation makes to the field. Such contributions may be to theory, methodology, using unusual respondent samples, or addressing particular social or educational policy or practice issues. This should not exceed 2 pages.
- A letter in English from your mentor, who will normally have served in an advisory role during your doctoral work, but may exceptionally be someone else familiar with your work.

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AME Dissertation Award (cont.)

- A 3000 word summary of your dissertation, in English. This should include a summary of your theoretical approach and argument, and if your dissertation is research-based, your methods, your main results and some discussion of their implications.
- Details of your contact addresses (mail and email), phone number(s), the dates of your doctoral programme and award of degree, name and department of the institution awarding the degree, and the name(s) of your dissertation supervisor(s) and examiner(s), including their institutions.

If you are shortlisted, you will be invited to submit your complete dissertation in the original language in pdf format by February 20, 2012.

The Dissertation Committee has no restriction on the number of proposals that it may shortlist; judgment will be on quality alone.

Please submit your materials electronically to:

Dr Helen Haste,
Chair, AME Dissertation Award Committee
Harvard Graduate School of Education

Phone 1 617 354 1544

hastehe@gse.harvard.edu

New AME Executive Board Members

The Executive Board welcomes our new members!

Victoria Foster

Nobumichi Iwasa

Doret de Ruyter (who is currently a presidential appointee)

Jason Stephens (who has been reelected to the Board)

AME By-Law and Policy Manual Revisions: Behind the Scenes

The AME By-Laws and Policy Manual have not been revised since 2001. As a result of new initiatives, however, including fundraising and membership, both the By-Laws (which set the parameters for our governance and are the first few pages of the Manual) and the Policy Manual (which elaborates on the details of our governance within those parameters and make up the remainder of the Manual) are being updated.

As members of AME, you will be asked to vote on the By-Law changes. Because AME is incorporated as a non-profit organization, changes in its bylaws need to be voted on by its members (but changes in its Policy Manual do not). For historical reasons, we are incorporated in the state of Minnesota, designated by "MN" in the proposed revisions. In the interest of openness, we are also putting a link to the original and revised Policy Manual on the website, www.amenetwork.org.

The changes introduced by the revisions are few. In general, the revisions to both the By-Laws and Policy Manual are an attempt to bring our documents in line with practice. You will notice, for example, that one of the proposed By-Law changes identifies the URL at which organization information is available (motion 4) and another specifies Robert's Rules of Order as the rules that govern our organization (motion 8). Some further proposed revisions are:

- Allows the Board to hold on-line votes (motion 7).
- Specifies that AME members may submit nominations of potential Board members to the Nominations and Elections committee chair (Jeremy Frimer, jeremyfrimer@gmail.com) or any officer, at any time before or during the conference (motion 17).
- Allows AME members to receive email notifications of the results of Board elections (motion 18).

All proposed revisions have been accepted by unanimous Board vote. Again, notice that you are voting on changes to the By-Laws but do not need to vote on changes to the Policy Manual (which are much more extensive).

The By-Laws revisions will be voted on during the Community Meeting. Look for the By-Laws and Policy Manual online after that time.

Kaye Cook
AME Secretary
kaye.cook@gordon.edu

If the 'searching of our heart and reins' be the purpose of this human drama, then what is sought seems to be what effort we can make. He who can make none is but a shadow, he who can make much is a hero.

William James

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM 2012

IMPORTANT

If you attend the AME conference at Nanjing, China, your dues will be automatically paid for the year 2012. If you do not attend the 2011 conference, you will need to use this form and mail (or electronically pay) your dues to renew your membership for 2012.

Your membership includes a subscription to the quarterly the *Journal of Moral Education* and to the *AME Forum*, published twice a year.

To renew your AME membership, please complete the following:

Name _____

Institution _____

Business phone _____ Home phone _____

FAX _____ E-mail _____

Mailing Label:

Line 1 (name) _____

Line 2 _____

Line 3 _____

Line 4 _____

Mark as appropriate:

_____ Regular dues: \$95.00 (includes 4 issues of *The Journal of Moral Education*)

_____ Student dues: \$65.00 (includes 4 issues of *The Journal of Moral Education*)

_____ Donation to the Kohlberg Memorial Fund: \$_____.00

_____ Total enclosed. Make your check (or money order for those outside the U.S. or Canada) payable in **US dollars** to **Association for Moral Education**. Mail this form and your payment to:

AME c/o Phyllis Curtis-Tweed
Medgar Evers College, Department of Psychology
1650 Bedford Ave
Brooklyn, New York 11225 USA
(ptweed@mec.cuny.edu)

Those who prefer to pay by credit card may renew their memberships online at http://www.amenetwork.org/membership_dues.html using PayPal.