

Editorial Introduction

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This issue of the *Journal of Dialogic Ethics: Interfaith and Interhuman Perspectives* continues to celebrate the contribution of Ronald C. Arnett to the communication discipline and its intersections with other fields of study. Arnett's scholarly engagement opens invitational spaces for dialogue and debate around topics, concepts, and praxis that touch individuals, organizations, and communities. This is a collection of essays that were presented at the 17th Biennial Communication Ethics Conference, centered on "Communication Ethics as Tenacious Hope," at Duquesne University in the summer of 2023. With these essays, we continue to see the deep impact of Arnett's scholarship and leadership. Most of the essays in this issue were presented by their authors at the conference, including Timothy L. Sellnow, Amit Pinchevski, Basak M. Guven, and Justin Bonanno. These essays either engage the scholarship of Arnett or focus on his leadership in the discipline. The essay contributed by Ellen Paul and Jon Radwan, while not presented at the conference, demonstrates an embodiment of dialogical and interfaith commitment by bringing different perspectives together in conversation. This issue also offers a debut book review for this journal, extending our mission beyond stand-alone essays. The inaugural book review is offered by Rhiannon Grant.

In the first essay, "Holy Sparks of Dialogic Civility: A Drama in Three Acts," Timothy L. Sellnow's keynote address reflects a poetic narrative around his decades-long work with Arnett from when he was one of Arnett's first students until he came into his own scholarly acclaim. This essay provides a rich and textured account of honor and respect through Sellnow's experiences, impressions, and engagement with Arnett over time. It truly is a celebration of Arnett's scholarship, leadership, and friendship.

Amit Pinchevski's essay, "Beyond Dialogue: Communication Ethics between Interpersonal and Impersonal," was another keynote address at the conference. It employs Arnett's earlier metaphor of dialogic civility, suggesting that the term denotes a potential turn toward thirdness, which offers a counterpoint to the application of dialogic civility. Pinchevski's essay begins with Arnett's thinking, which moves him toward offering an alternative between impersonal and interpersonal and rescuing thirdness as a realistic possibility.

Basak M. Guven's essay, "Situating the Self in the Mud of Everyday Life: A Call Reminding of the Practical Philosophy behind the Doing of Theory," enters

into a discussion signifying a philosophy of communication ethics that is specifically aware of “post-isms” that invite competing narratives and perspectives into dialogue that can establish hope for future dialogue. Guven brings together the works of Arnett, Seyla Benhabib, Martin Buber, and Hannah Arendt, among others, to provide a meaningful and pragmatic invitation toward dialogic engagement.

In Justin N. Bonanno’s essay, “Leading with the Good: The Role of Rhetorical Commonplaces in Communication Ethics,” the role of commonplaces in varying communication ethics perspectives is explored. Bonanno considers how they interrelate to and potentially extend Arnett’s notion of commonplaces, which can be a way to navigate problematic situations involving competing goods. Bonanno makes the case that it is important to emphasize the significance of the good, which can enable relatability across competing narratives and provide opportunity for coming together in dialogue and building mutual understandings.

Ellen Paul and Jon Radwan, in their essay “Catholics and Latter-day Saints: A History and a Coming Together,” acknowledge that communication between Catholics and Latter-day Saints has been and still is rare. Convening a panel discussion from these differing perspectives, Paul and Radwan invited participants to share some history of their faith traditions and explore some of their theological similarities and differences. Bringing Catholic and Latter-day Saint voices into dialogue resonates with the notion of commonplaces in Bonanno’s essay. Understanding the commonplaces between Catholics and Latter-day Saints can provide opportunities for opening and sustaining discussion and understanding.

Finally, this issue includes a book review of Eleanor Nesbitt’s (2023) *Open to New Light: Quakers and Other Faiths* (Quaker Quicks series). A review of this new publication is fitting for a journal focusing on dialogic perspectives. Rhiannon Grant provides insight into strengths of the book and areas for further development. Grant suggests that Nesbitt’s text provides an opening for further development and understanding of the Quaker faith and traditions. We hope you find the inclusion of a book review to be a useful addition to the journal.

My final comment about this issue is that we continue to see the significance of Arnett’s scholarship unfold in relation to the broader communication discipline and intersecting subdisciplines, such as dialogue studies, rhetoric, communication ethics, religion, and philosophy of communication (this is not an exhaustive list). The ideas crafted by Arnett over his long career touched the minds and hearts of his students and other scholars around the world. It is with this in mind that we continue our celebration of the scholarship and leadership of Ronald C. Arnett with deep appreciation.