

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## The Societas Ethica Annual Conference

- *European Society for Research in Ethics* -

in cooperation with the Evangelische Akademie Arnoldshain

### *On Morals, Markets and Money* – *Economic and Business Ethics Revisited*

August 19-22, 2010  
Arnoldshain - Germany

We cordially invite you to the 47th Annual Conference of the Societas Ethica 2010 on the topic “On Moral, Markets and Money –Economic and Business Ethics Revisited”. The conference is the annual meeting of the European Research Society for Ethics, focusing each year on a different and up-to-date topic from various philosophical and theological ethical perspectives.

The crisis of the financial markets has led to a crisis in the economic systems internationally. The concepts of more market liberalization and markets as places of self-organizations came into turmoil. Fundamental questions about the role of the economy and politics and the relation of them are discussed. In these discussions ethical issues of justice, virtues, values, duties etc. are at stake. There are different levels at which the economic developments are to be discussed ethically and which will play a role in the conference:

1. **Ethics of Globalization and Ethical Aspects of Economic Policies:** On the political level both greater transparency and more regulation in the economic sphere are discussed in relation to different economic policies. Where is globalization heading, and what about aspects of justice concerning North-South relations globally as well as gender issues? Is there a global need for a European-inspired “Social Market Economy”? What are the ethical foundations for this? What other concepts are there and how can they be seen from an ethical point of view? How can an economic ethics of globalization look like? Are there universal principles or must an ethics of globalization be culturally diverse?
2. **Ethics of Financial Markets and Finances:** The ethics of financial markets is an emerging field. Traditionally the focus has been on ethical evaluation of investments, be it in ethical investment and funds or in foreign investment, and on accounting ethics, but increasingly, financial markets and their institutions as banks, rating agencies etc. are taken into consideration. What is the role of ethics concerning financial markets? What can be regulated via more laws and where do morals play a role? What can be called ethical in investment?
3. **Business Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility:** Corporations and their actions are taken into ethical consideration. What is their role in these settings of economic transition and crisis? Can they be called “moral agents” or is their role to be defined as “citizen”? How can ethics play a role in corporations – only on an individual level as the virtues or morals of managers and workers, or are there

instruments like codes of conduct or practice, which might help? What has ethics to do with trade unions and associations?

- 4. History and Theoretical Foundations of Economic and Business Ethics:** In theological as well as philosophical ethics, ethicists have developed thoughts on business and economic issues like the just price or rules on interest. How do these historical approaches help for our present-day understanding? What are the theoretical foundations for economic and business ethics? Are there specific theological or philosophical approaches, such as utilitarianism e.g., which appear closer to economics than others? Or is the basic need of the present situation a change in paradigm concerning especially the moral foundations of economics? Can we talk about the moralization of the market or is there a de-moralization?

**The abstracts:**

The Societas Ethica invites ethicists from all disciplines to contribute to the discussion of the topic of 2010 with a presentation of about 20 minutes (to be followed by a discussion of about 30 minutes). Please send us the title and the main points of your presentation in the form of a 1-2 page abstract. Papers can be given in English, German or French. The deadline for the abstract is: **1<sup>st</sup> March 2010.**

Abstracts will be reviewed by a blind peer-review and the most adequate papers selected. This process will be completed by the end of April 2010.

**Research session independent of the conference topic:** Please be aware that in order to support younger ethicists, one session of the Call for Papers will be open to ethical topics of any kind, with no necessary connection to the general theme of the conference. This occasion may therefore be used to present work-in-progress, and to receive critical feedback.

**Contact:** Please send your abstracts as e-mail attachments to [Celine.EhrweinNihan@unil.ch](mailto:Celine.EhrweinNihan@unil.ch) or to our postal address:

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**Location of the conference and cooperation partner:**

The conference will be at the  
Evangelische Akademie Arnoldshain / Martin-Niemöller-Haus  
(cooperation partner: Dr. Gotlind Ulshöfer)  
Im Eichwaldsfeld  
61389 Schmitten - Arnoldshain  
Germany,  
which is about 30 km north of Frankfurt am Main, Germany: [www.evangelische-akademie.de](http://www.evangelische-akademie.de)

**Further information:** Please visit our website <http://www.societasethica.info>