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Volume 44

Studies in Applied Philosophy, Epistemology and Rational Ethics (SAPERE) publishes new developments and advances in all the fields of philosophy, epistemology, and ethics, bringing them together with a cluster of scientific disciplines and technological outcomes: ranging from computer science to life sciences, from economics, law, and education to engineering, logic, and mathematics, from medicine to physics, human sciences, and politics. The series aims at covering all the challenging philosophical and ethical themes of contemporary society, making them appropriately applicable to contemporary theoretical and practical problems, impasses, controversies, and conflicts. Our scientific and technological era has offered "new" topics to all areas of philosophy and ethics – for instance concerning scientific rationality, creativity, human and artificial intelligence, social and folk epistemology, ordinary reasoning, cognitive niches and cultural evolution, ecological crisis, ecologically situated rationality, consciousness, freedom and responsibility, human identity and uniqueness, cooperation, altruism, intersubjectivity and empathy, spirituality, violence. The impact of such topics has been mainly undermined by contemporary cultural settings, whereas they should increase the demand of interdisciplinary applied knowledge and fresh and original understanding. In turn, traditional philosophical and ethical themes have been profoundly affected and transformed as well: they should be further examined as embedded and applied within their scientific and technological environments so to update their received and often old-fashioned disciplinary treatment and appeal. Applying philosophy individuates therefore a new research commitment for the 21st century, focused on the main problems of recent methodological, logical, epistemological, and cognitive aspects of modeling activities employed both in intellectual and scientific discovery, and in technological innovation, including the computational tools intertwined with such practices, to understand them in a wide and integrated perspective.

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Editorial Note

The papers in this volume result from the 3rd conference on the "Philosophy and Theory of Artificial Intelligence" (PT-AI) 4–5 November 2017 which I organised in Leeds where I am a university fellow—for details on the conference, see http://www.pt-ai.org/.

For this conference, we had 77 extended abstract submissions by the deadline, which were reviewed double-blind by two to four referees. A total of 28 submissions, i.e. 36%, were accepted for presentation. We also accepted 18 posters to be presented. The invited speakers were Thomas Metzinger, Mark Sprevak, José Hernández-Orallo, Yi Zeng, Susan Schneider, David C. Hogg and Peter Millican. All papers and posters were submitted in January at full length (two pages for posters) and reviewed another time by at least two referees among the authors. In the end, we have 32 papers here that represent the current state of the art in the philosophy of AI. We grouped the papers broadly into three categories: "Cognition–Reasoning–Consciousness", "Computation–Intelligence–Machine Learning" and "Ethics–Law". This year, we see a significant increase in ethics, more work on machine learning, perhaps less on embodiment or computation—and a stronger "feel" that our area of work has entered the mainstream. This is also evident from more papers in "standard" journals, more book publications with mainstream philosophy presses and more philosophers from neighbouring fields joining us, such as philosophy of mind or philosophy of science. These are encouraging developments, and we are looking forward to PT-AI 2019!

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