

Introduction

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The *Journal of Philosophical Logic* was founded in 1972, at a time when research in the field of philosophical logic—the development or application of logical techniques in areas directly related to philosophical concerns—was just beginning to mature. Its founding editor was Bas van Fraassen, although, before his untimely death, Richard Montague had agreed to serve as an editor. Richmond Thomason took over in 1977 and edited the *JPL* until 1989, by which time it had become established as a premier venue in the field, with articles in all areas of philosophical logic as well as related topics from the natural and social sciences. During the intervening years, the journal has been managed by teams of editors consisting of, in roughly chronological order, J. Michael Dunn, Bas van Fraassen again, Terrence Parsons, Anil Gupta, Krister Segerberg, Van McGee, Rohit Parikh, Albert Visser, Aldo Antonelli, Horacio Arlo-Costa, Patrick Blackburn, Allen Hazen, Krister Segerberg again, Hans van Ditmarsch, John Horty, Philip Kremer, Branden Fitelson, Greg Restall, and Frank Veltman.

Since the *JPL* has now been in existence for forty years, we decided to mark the occasion with a special issue, to be known as *JPL40: The Fortieth Anniversary Issue*. Although it is common, at times like this, to ask distinguished—or at least, older—figures to reflect on developments in the field, we chose, instead, to invite some of the most promising younger philosophical logicians to take stock. The twenty authors whose papers appear in this volume were encouraged to provide their personal views

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on the recent history and prospects of their research areas, the most important papers, the most pressing questions, the traps and dead-ends to be avoided, and how they see their own work as fitting in. What we had in mind were short papers—too personal for handbook or encyclopedia articles, but still something along the lines of brief, opinionated overviews.

The authors of these papers reacted to our request in different ways. Some provided exactly what we had imagined. Others were unable to resist including original research, for which we are also grateful. Overall, we could not be happier with the contents of this celebratory volume, and we want to thank the authors for providing a picture of philosophical logic as such vibrant, engaging field.

Two notes. First, although we had briefly hoped to assemble a suite of authors covering the entire field of philosophical logic, at least as it exists today, we quickly realized that this would be impossible. The papers collected here canvas a rich variety of topics, but we hope the reader will understand that they represent only a sampling of work done in the field. Second, although we first conceived the idea of this anniversary issue early in 2011, hoping to have all papers assembled in time for the actual fortieth anniversary of the *JPL* in 2012, the process met with several delays, including, it must be said, editorial delays—one wit suggested that the volume should be renamed *JPL43*. Nevertheless, we maintain our original conception of this volume as a celebration, though somewhat delayed, looking back over forty years of the *JPL*, but more important, looking ahead toward the future.