

**UNIVERSITY OF CRETE
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

ELEFTHERNA

**SCIENTIFIC YEAR-BOOK
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY**



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Introduction Note

As it had already been announced, the third volume of the “ELEFThERNA” scientific year book by the Department of Psychology, University of Crete, is in English. It is a special issue concerning “Psychological Science: Contemporary ethical dilemmas.” This is a matter that keeps coming into question not only in Philosophy or Theology but in all the fields of Social, Humanistic, Educational sciences and Law.

The present volume features scientific research and dialogue on an international level regarding the complex issue of ethical dilemmas. It also presents the problem of crime in modern societies (“Society and crime in post-modern societies”) as it is illustrated in Fritz Sack’s, Professor of Criminology and Honorary Professor of the Department of Psychology, speech. I would like to believe that through these presentations we help to promote and support scientific research, dialogue and stimulate social concern.

On behalf of the Department of Psychology of the University of Crete I would first and foremost like to congratulate the authors for their high-level research but also everyone that worked for this issue and to wish them to continue to successfully work for upcoming and improved editions of the “ELEFThERNA” year-book.

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Introduction

As it had been announced from the first even volume of the “ELEFTHERNA” scientific yearbook by the Department of Psychology, School of Social Sciences of University of Crete, as well as in the call for papers, the third volume (2006) is in English and is a special issue, that is, “Psychological science: Contemporary ethical dilemmas”.

The rapid scientific and technological evolutions on an international level have formed new conditions on organizing social work structures and living conditions.

However, this “new knowledge” and new conditions are bound to cause new problems that cannot be resolved by “former knowledge” (former theories, that is) and “old recipes”. This new type of problems that come to surface require solutions that are based on new knowledge, which in several cases modifies but also overcomes former data. I will mention an example from the field of biogenetic research to make this clearer: According to modern day scientific data a child may have five parents instead of two (mother-father), meaning: the sperm donor, the egg donor, the genetic mother that offers the uterus and the two step-parents that adopt it. Needless to say that these new circumstances overcome standard psychology and pedagogical science data and create, for that matter, new scientific and social issues which need to be resolved on a scientific, social and political level.

Another issue related to the previous example are the ethical dilemmas and the concern about brothers that come from the same sperm donor (given the fact that sperm banks preserve genetic material from men that have certain qualities that are in demand). As a result, a single donor may father many children without the children-brothers being aware of their common origin.

Another suggestive example comes from the field of science that deals with gene mutation. Should there be experiments in order to treat hereditary transmitted diseases?

The research on neurology and “mind control” or use of methods to limit criminal tendencies (as in the feature film *Minority Report*) also poses several ethical dilemmas.

Scientists from various fields may present their findings to society in order for them to be discussed and politicians need to make decisions and legislate. Scientists may not be responsible for the misuse of their findings, they are,

however, responsible for the way their research is conducted. If, for example, their research does concur with the set and acknowledged Deontology Rules that exist in any scientific field.

More and more it's not only the researcher-scientist that faces ethical dilemmas but also every individual on a personal level.

The present volume consists of a text that marks the personality and work of Fritz Sack, which is basically the proposal text concerning his nomination as Honorary Professor of the Department of Psychology, University of Crete, that the Head of the Department of Psychology, Georgios N. Galanis, and Assistant Professor, Andreas Kastellakis, introduced to the Department's General Assembly. It also consists of the "resolution" which was presented to Fritz Sack, Professor of Criminology, during the nomination ceremony on Thursday, June 1st 2006 in Rethymnon, Crete, by the University Rector, Professor Ioannis Pallicares¹.

These are followed by the text that is entitled "Society and crime in post-modern societies" which was Honorary Professor Fritz Sack's speech on June 1st 2006, delivered on the occasion of his being awarded the "Dr. Honoris causa" title.

The seven essays that follow deal with the volume's main issue "Ethical dilemmas in Psychology", the last of which is a review.

In the first essay, entitled "Society and Crime in post modern societies", Fritz Sack offers a detailed review of the development of criminology from a sociological perspective. Although the biological school was preceded by the moral statisticians of the 19th century, the sociostructural approach was suppressed and replaced by the Italian individualistic perspective. The full strength of a sociological perspective was achieved by the paradigmatic shift in the '60s. Crime was no longer an ontological phenomenon. Its definition, operation and function became the aim of empirical and theoretical study. Finally, the author offers his reflection on the fundamental change of the penal system in modern societies.

In the second essay, entitled "Classical ethical positions and their relevance in justifying behavior: A model of prescriptive attribution", Erich H. Witte separates empirical research on ethics from classical research on morality and relates it to other major issues on social psychology and sociology and makes reference to some founding studies of ethical research and its historical development. Through the presentation and discussion of six empirical studies

¹ For a more detailed preview of the Laudatio which was announced during the nomination ceremony, see Galanis, Georgios N. (2007): "...to set an end to naivity and to understand that what is did not have to be." Regarding the work and personality of Fritz Sack. In Galanis, Georgios N. (ed.): "Political Psychology, theoretical and empirical studies" Political Psychology Series, Volume I, Papazisis Publications, chapter 10, pp. 299-325.

Witte illustrates the proposal that a deeper understanding of explanations leads towards the classical perspective attribution theories, whilst a deeper understanding of the energizing forces behind an action lead towards the concept of empirical perspective attribution research.

In the third essay, “Empirical research on ethics: The influence of social roles on decisions and on their ethical justification”, Erich H. Witte and Imke Heitkamp discuss the question whether different social roles lead to different decisions and justifications concerning ethical problems. They present two studies: in the first study, participants were asked to decide on a financial problem while assuming a related social role. In the second study, role expectations were asked for. The decision of the participants had to be justified by weighing the importance of four ethical positions: hedonism, intuitionism, utilitarianism and deontology. The authors illustrate that decisions and their justifications are dependent on social roles, while the differences between role-behavior and role-expectation indicate a misunderstanding crucial in terms of group decisions.

In the fourth essay entitled “Ethical issues to working with suicidal clients” Theodoros Giovazolias discusses the fact that in the clinical practice of counseling psychology and psychotherapy the therapist may often encounter a client who has attempted or is likely to commit suicide. Such an encounter may well evoke a variety of moral conflicts in the therapist. The author explores the moral conflicts that arise when working with suicidal clients and discusses a number of fundamental questions concerning the morality of suicide, its relation to mental illness, etc.

In the fifth essay entitled “Psychology and Ethics: The double face of Janus”, Manolis Dafermos attempts to explore the relation between psychology and ethics. The author discusses the epistemological contradictions that occur while examining the relation between the positivistic, objective, experimental science of psychology that should be free of any moral values (“value neutrality”) and the humanistic orientation that attempts to highlight the moral dimension of psychological knowledge. Reference is also made to the social constructionists’ approach that has stirred up criticism on individual humanism and has proposed a relational humanism that would make the relation networks encompassing individuals explicit.

In the sixth essay, “Evolution of Medical Ethics and Bioethics in Greece: Ancient – Christian – Contemporary Greece”, Nikolaos Koios, Lambrini Veloyanni and Demetrios Alvanos discuss the evolution of medical ethics in Greece ever since the Hippocratic Oath. The Oath has influenced Greek ethical thinking not only during antiquity but also during early Christian times and the Byzantine era. During the Turkish occupation period, the Oath reoccurs in Greece in the texts of the Greek Enlighteners. In modern times this Oath is

taken by the Medicine graduates and offers a stimulus of debates concerning the challenges of modern Bioethics and Medicine.

In the seventh essay, entitled “Oral and Moral Expression in Language Settings – Implied Dilemmas in Literacy Acquisition: An empirical phenomenological study of 7-9 Year-Old Greek Children’s Ethical Reflection on Creative Storytelling”, Smaragda Papadopoulou examines the ethical concepts in verbal expressions of children through narratives. 39 girls and 43 boys were interviewed in school settings. They were asked to tell their own story about “the sun”, as a story character. The Empirical Psychological Phenomenological method (EEP) was used for the analysis of the data. The results illustrate 13 qualitative categories of ethical meaning, which have been decided by “judges” providing an image analysis of the ethical traits and deeds of the stories’ heroes. The author discusses the importance of storytelling in children’s moral criteria reflected in their own speech.

The last essay, entitled “Towards an Ethic without Dogma and Moral Forces – Two perennial works by Argentinean psychiatrist, philosopher and ardent champion of reason José Ingenieros”, Lazaros C. Triarhou presents a synopsis of the works “Towards an Ethic without Dogma” and “Moral Forces” by José Ingenieros. The Argentinean psychiatrist J. Ingenieros has been a physician, philosopher and political activist, Professor of Experimental Psychology at the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Buenos Aires. He tried to establish a comprehensive system based on developmental, evolutionary and sociogenetic biopsychology and on positive philosophy. He has presented studies on mental pathology and criminology, on philosophy, psychology and sociology. The works that L. C. Triarhou presents constitute two of J. Ingenieros’ fundamental contributions in the field of Ethics.

In the “2006-2007 academic year journal” there is information about the Teaching and Research Faculty, the Administration, alumni, graduate and post-graduate students, professor nominees, professors as well as about several of the Department’s activities.

As Head of the Department and head of the yearbook publication I would like to thank the authors that trusted us with their essays that are being published, the judges of the essays that helped to improve the quality of the issue, the members of the Year Book Publication Committee, as well as all who contributed in any way to this volume of the yearbook. I would especially like to thank Andreas Kastellakis, Emmanouil Sisamakias and Theoni-Fani Triantafyllou.

Finally, I would like to thank the University of Crete Rector, Ioannis Palikares, who was kind enough to preface this edition.

Professor Georgios N. Galanis