



# REFLECTIONS

SPRINGER NATURE JOURNALS EDITORIAL OFFICE

**CRITICAL THINKING  
AS A CIVIC DUTY**

SEPTEMBER 2016



# **EDITORIAL**

This time I requested that I write the editorial and wished to make it a thanks giving corner to all the great minds at office as I completed 10 years with SPS as of August 2016.

My sincerest thanks and gratitude to the management for identifying me for this position and I am sure that the trust and confidence that they bestowed on me makes me work harder and highly efficient.

My special and sincere thanks to Mr. Rao for always being there and motivating me all through these years. It is one thing to be a boss, another thing to be a mentor but a completely different thing to be a leader. I am glad to be led by a boss, mentor and leader such as him.

My heartfelt and exclusive thanks to my distinguished team. When I expected good, you gave me better. When I expected better, you gave me best. When I expected best, you gave me extraordinary. Thanks for being an exemplary team and my success and the team's success is greatly bestowed and conferred on all your hard work. I feel very proud to say that I am just a representative of great team members.

Thanks for everything that you have done for me and the team and we will cherish together the forthcoming miles in our company.

**Sivakani Jayaprakash, JEO Manager, SPS**

# JBE EDITORS MEETING

## AUGUST 2016

Dr. Michelle Greenwood,  
Editor in Chief,  
Journal of Business Ethics



On Thursday August 5, 2016 we excitedly made our way to Anaheim in California, eager in our anticipation to embark on a big adventure and meet a magical character. By now you might have guessed that we were in our way to Disneyland and an encounter with Mickey Mouse. But you would be wrong! We had an experience far more important and far more fun in our sights. We were about to attend the first meeting of editors of the Journal of Business Ethics and about to have our first live encounter with Sivakani Jayaprakash (same dark hair but much smaller ears).

Ed Freeman and I took on the role of editor in chief at Journal of Business Ethics (JBE) following the retirement of Alex Michalos, the founding editor of the journal after 35 years of service. We feel very privileged to have the opportunity to be part of an extraordinary editorial team at JBE. Some of the finest scholars in Business Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility have joined us, ready to roll up their sleeves to do many hours of editorial work to manage with care and integrity the 2,500+ papers submitted annually and to develop the journal into the future. Our editors could not even begin to do this without the professional and intelligent contribution of the JEO team.

The meeting held at the Wyndham Hotel, Anaheim, on that lovely summer day was full of energy with 14 in attendance. It was the first editors' meeting held in almost 10 years, it was the first time many of the editors had met each other or Neil Olivier (Publishing Editor, Springer), and it was the first time any of us had met the mythical being that seems to spend all day every day taming the beast that is JBE, Sivakani Jayaprakash (Manager, JEO).

We had lively debate about many aspects of editorial work, greatly aided by a special visit from Professor Jim Walsh from University of Michigan, former President of the Academy of Management. Yet we only touched on a fraction of the issues that confront us daily as editors (e.g. Can you rescind part of a reviewer's report? Can you introduce a new reviewer after R1 if the previous reviewers are unavailable? How can we assist authors to differentiate better between the Corporate Social Responsibility and Corporate Sustainability sections at the journal?). And we barely had time to even list all the great ideas we have for the development of the journal (e.g. virtual special issues, a JBE twitter and Facebook account). It was clear that we will need to spend more time together more often. We walked away thrilled to have met some wonderful people and have a far deeper knowledge of several editors, of the journal and of ourselves.

# CRITICAL THINKING AS A CIVIC DUTY



Many generations before us have fought to have enshrined in our Constitutions two basic rights: freedom of thought and freedom of speech. This consolidates the norm that any one of us can freely speak up our mind, without fear of coercion or punishment – and puts systems in place to protect it. A society where individuals are treated with dignity, by granting such rights, is a better society. But is such society a good one if its members abuse these rights instead of exercising them responsibly? The two inalienable rights should be supported by an equally inalienable duty – that is, to think well.

In my experience as academic journal editor and researcher I have too often met people who felt constrained or oppressed by the invitation to reflect on their own reasoning (or that of others) and evaluate it. How can these feelings be explained? Is it fear of letting go of pet ideas to which they feel too attached?

Indeed, submitting one's thinking to the scrutiny of others and accepting the critique are acts of courage. And I would argue they are also basic civic duties. Academics are best placed to lead by example here. Like the ancient Athenian Ephebes, we have inherited the political rights to free thought and speech in order to do our best to leave our polis better than we found it. But to produce something better, we need to be able to use our well-considered arguments to engage with each other in meaningful and constructive debates.

This is the strength and beauty of deliberative democracy, where reasoning is a crucial activity.

Cristina Neesham has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Bucharest and a PhD in Philosophy from the University of Melbourne. Over the last 25 years she has lectured at the Bucharest University of Economics, the University of Melbourne, Monash University, the Transylvania University of Brasov, the University of Adelaide, and Swinburne University of Technology. Cristina is Section Editor of the Journal of Business Ethics, Associate Editor of the Springer Handbook of Philosophy of Management and Editorial Board Member of the Springer Encyclopedia of Business and Professional Ethics. She is Research Committee Chair of the Social Issues in Management division of the Academy of Management.

Let us strive to become better critical thinkers, by working harder at examining the soundness of the reasoning principles and patterns we use. We owe this to those who died so we can speak our mind today. We owe it to ourselves and to each other, so we can properly enjoy the power derived from that inherited freedom. And we owe it to our children and grandchildren, so they too can inherit and contribute to a better world.



**Cristina Neesham, Section Editor  
Journal of Business Ethics**

# 4 YEARS AT SPS



I feel happy and proud to have completed four years at SPS, four years that began on 20 August 2012, and four years that I hope are the start of many more.

I have enjoyed each and every day of my time here. I would like to thank all my shift coordinators and my fellow team leaders who have helped me in all the ways I have needed to reach this wonderful position. Devi Shanmugam has provided me with some of the greatest support I have received, from when I joined as a trainee to the height that I've reached today. She has taught me a lot about the job and has guided me in all the aspects I have required.

Srilakshmi taught me a lot and encouraged me in whatever steps I took. I am grateful to our manager who has been the greatest support of all. He has motivated me and guided me through my journey here.

I was given a team earlier this year and was given the responsibility of acting team leader.

This led to my promotion to team leader, one of the most unforgettable moments in my career. I would like to thank each and every person in our department for helping me every single day. Enjoy the work and put in all of your effort into what you do, success will come to you before you know it.

**Priya Balamurugan, Journal Editor, SPS**

Here comes the four year milestone of my great journey at SPS. This has been one of the most wonderful experiences I have had in my career, from day 1 to 1460. These have been filled with pleasure, and I have learned new things every day that I have been working here.

It is startling to think that I have been here for four years now. When I was new, I had my ups and downs. However, I had the guidance of my seniors at every step. This didn't stop the longer I stayed. I continue learning everyday from my shift coordinators and teamleaders. I'd like to thank our Manager who's been a great inspiration and a better guide in helping me get to where I am today.

This wouldn't be complete without thanking each and every member of the JEO team for the all the support you have given me. I have and will always enjoy this job in your company.

I would like to leave you with a message that I have followed every day. I hope this eases your jobs like it has mine.

"When you enjoy your work, you will never think that the job is complicated".

**Helen James, Journal Editor, SPS**



# THANK YOU

Everyone has dreams in life but only very few people achieve them. I am a person who wishes to accomplish things beyond my dreams. I conquered my dreams at SPS.

The Journal Editorial Office has groomed me so that I can face any challenges or tough situations that I will face later in life.

I would like to thank the Japan Implementation Managers Tomoko Yamanajo, Miyuki Akioka, Ayako Murata, and Yuko Sofue for always guiding me. The perfection in their work has been a huge inspiration for me.

'Actions speak louder than words' is the motto of Springer's JEO and I have always given hundred percent effort to follow this.

When I look back at my life at SPS, I feel proud of having worked with a few of the best human beings in the world. They have always stood by me when I struggled and helped me regain faith in myself. Whenever I felt low, they injected positivity in me.

I feel very sad to leave such a lovely work environment. However, at some points in life you decide to move on.

**I am very grateful to the JEO and my colleagues at Springer for making me what I am today. I wish you all the very best of luck in your endeavours.**

Neeraj Poduval, Ex-Journal Editor, SPS



## CREATIVITY



This time it was Devi team's turn to explore and have fun on the notice board.