

## First Australasian Business Ethics Network Conference

2-3 December 2011

Hosted by Auckland University of Technology, Auckland, New Zealand

### Call for Papers

## “Business Ethics: Expectations and Disappointments”

Undeniably the field of business ethics has grown and changed in recent years. At the turn of the twenty-first century, hopes remained high that corporations could and would embrace more sustainable and responsible management ethics, thereby effecting positive change in society. Many in academia have since worked alongside business practitioners to understand the challenges and opportunities inherent in implementing a new business paradigm – one which is more humane, more socially and environmentally conscious, more inspiring, more spiritual, more successful in the long-term.

What has been achieved? What opportunities have been missed? What shall we do next?

Some have become highly suspicious of the use of ‘ethics’ in business jargon. Endless waves of corporate scandals do little to prove them wrong. Others focus on the positive outcomes that years of civil society lobbying have brought to business practice. Yet others deeply care for the idea of ‘business ethics’ and try to maintain a fine balance between market demands and the imperatives to improve society as a whole. This conference aims to bring these, and other, voices together and confront our expectations and disappointments – past, present and future.

**We invite contributions that discuss the expectations and disappointments – in research, practice and teaching – with contemporary business ethics. All contributions that address the theme of the conference are welcome.**

**We are particularly interested in abstracts or papers that address the following themes:**

- **Indigenous business ethics:** Australasia’s history, culture and identity have been influenced to varying degrees by the cultures and practices of its native peoples. What does this mean for business ethics research and praxis? Is there an indigenous perspective on business ethics? What can we learn from Māori or Aboriginal cultures about ethical and business practice? What do Pasifika and other indigenous peoples bring to our understandings?
- **Spirituality and business ethics:** Interest in spirituality within the workplace has grown exponentially in recent years – both from instrumental and normative perspectives. What have we learnt so far? How are the paradigms compatible with one another? How do we manage the demands of the different ‘spirits’: the spirit of capitalism, the spirit of Mother Earth, the spirit of religions, the spirit of Man, the spirit of Woman – amongst others?

- **Teaching business ethics:** Calling for change in the practice of business requires that we look at what and how we have been teaching business students. Based on past experiences, how should we approach ethics in a business programme? How will the global financial crisis influence the teaching of business ethics in universities and elsewhere? What do we mean by 'teaching business ethics' at all?
- **Myths in business ethics:** Dissatisfied with current trends in the field, a growing number of scholars 'go back to basics' and re-read original texts from philosophers, economists or early management theorists with hopes of clarifying assumptions most take for granted. What assumptions should be questioned? Which myths pervade the business ethics area? How did they form and develop? What could they tell us about ethics, business and people?
- **Business, Society and Policy:** Business operates within a social and political context. At the same time, business also shapes that context. What are the relationships between business practices, societal expectations and public policy-making? How does business seek to influence public policy and public opinion (in the past, in the present)? How has that influence shaped social outcomes in areas, for example, of distributive justice and environmental sustainability? How can we make it better?

## **Submission process**

Submissions can be in the form of **full length papers** or **abstracts**.

**Full papers** should be between 3,000-5,000 words and must include a 200-word abstract. Full papers will be refereed.

**Abstracts** should be approximately 500 words.

**\*\*Please include your name, institution and contact details on the title page for both full papers and abstracts\*\***

Submissions should be emailed as a **Word document** to [aben2011@aut.ac.nz](mailto:aben2011@aut.ac.nz) by **14 July**.

Authors will be notified of the acceptance or otherwise of their submission by 1 September.

Registration details will be posted soon on the website, please check regularly for updated information.

**Please direct all enquiries about the conference to [aben2011@aut.ac.nz](mailto:aben2011@aut.ac.nz).**

The conference is organised by Dr. Cécile Rozuel with the assistance of Shirley Gunawan.

The conference is hosted by the Faculty of Business and Law, Auckland University of Technology, which is located in Auckland CBD and within walking distance of many hotels, cafes, restaurants and shopping centres. Public transportation is easily accessible. A list of hotels will be posted on this website at a later date.