



The Georgetown Institute for the Study of Markets and Ethics
and Wharton's Zicklin Center for Business Ethics Research
present a symposium on

THE ETHICS OF CORPORATE MORAL AGENCY

Georgetown University
McDonough School of Business
Rafik B. Hariri Building, Room 230
November 16, 2018

For more information: gisme.georgetown.edu

INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF MARKETS AND ETHICS

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY **McDonough**
SCHOOL of BUSINESS

Welcome



Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Georgetown University and the McDonough School of Business for our symposium on The Ethics of Corporate Moral Agency jointly sponsored by Georgetown Institute for the Study of Markets and Ethics and Wharton's Zicklin Center for Business Ethics Research.

Individuals who engage in wrongdoing in the corporate context are morally responsible for their actions. But whether the business organizations within which wrongdoing takes place are morally responsible as collective entities is a perennial question in the philosophical literature. Do corporations have moral agency? If not, why not? If so, what are the ethical implications of such collective moral agency?

What moral rights and duties do corporate moral agents possess? What political rights come along with such moral agency? How do such moral agents fit into the political theories that ground a liberal democracy? If corporations are moral agents, are corporate executives vicariously liable for corporate wrongdoing? What does it mean to punish a corporation? Do corporations have good or bad character?

Today's program brings together twelve notable philosophers, political scientists, and business and legal theorists representing a spectrum of ideological and intellectual perspectives to explore such questions.

I am grateful to the BB&T Foundation for its support of GISME's efforts to explore the moral foundations of the market society.

Again, welcome to Georgetown University and the McDonough School of Business. I hope you will find the symposium interesting and engaging.

Best Wishes,

John Hasnas
Executive Director
Georgetown Institute for the Study of Markets and Ethics

Agenda

8:15 - 8:30 a.m. | Welcome

John Hasnas, Executive Director, Georgetown Institute for the Study of Markets and Ethics

8:30 - 10:00 am | Panel I – The Philosophical Grounding and Limits of Corporate Moral Agency

Moderator

John Hasnas, McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University

Essayists

W. Robert Thomas, Law, Harvard Law School: *Criminal Law & Corporate Moral Agency: A View from Political Philosophy*

Abraham Singer, Political Theory, Quinlan School of Business, Loyola University Chicago: *Toward a Pragmatist Approach to Corporate Personality and Responsibility*

Mark LeBar, Philosophy, Florida State University: *Corporations, Reactive Attitudes, and the Moral Community*

10:15 - 11:45 a.m. | Panel II – Explorations of the Nature of Corporate Moral Agency

Moderator

Jason Brennan, McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University

Essayists

Vikram Bhargava and Manuel Velasquez, Philosophy, Leavey School of Business, Santa Clara University: *Corporations, Artificial Intelligence, and Responsibility*

Thomas Donaldson, Philosophy, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania: *Androids and Moral Agents: Two Kinds of Confusion*

Mihailis Diamantis, Law, University of Iowa: *The Law's Missing Account of Corporate Character*

Agenda

12:00 - 1:15 p.m. | Lunch Recess

1:30 - 3:00 p.m. | Panel III – The Implications of Corporate Moral Agency

Moderator

Sahar Akhtar, McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University

Essayists

David Shoemaker, Philosophy, Tulane University: *Blameworthy but Unblameable: a Paradox of Corporate Responsibility*

Chris MacDonald, Philosophy, Ted Rogers School of Management, Ryerson University: *Corporate Moral Motivation*

John Hasnas, Philosophy and Law, Georgetown University: *The Real Menace of the Responsibility Surplus*

3:15 - 4:45 p.m. | Panel IV – Applications of Corporate Moral Agency

Moderator

Peter Jaworski, McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University

Essayists

William Laufer and Matthew Caulfield, Law, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania: *Does Corporate Moral Agency Matter for Applied Business Ethics? Seriously, We'd Like To Know*

Turkuler Isiksel, Political Science, Columbia University: *Corporate Human Rights Claims under the ECHR*

Robert Hughes, Philosophy, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania: *Shareholder Theory, Side Constraints, and Exploitation*

4:45 - 5:00 p.m. | Closing Remarks

John Hasnas, Executive Director, Georgetown Institute for the Study of Markets and Ethics

Publication of Essays

The essays presented at this symposium will be published in a special edition of the *Georgetown Journal of Law and Public Policy* in 2019.

Interested parties may obtain an annual or single issue subscription to the journal by contacting the Georgetown Office of Journal Administration at lawoja@law.georgetown.edu or (202) 662-9423. To learn more or inquire about the journal, please visit www.law.georgetown.edu/public-policy-journal.



About the Institute

The Georgetown Institute for the Study of Markets and Ethics brings together the finest scholars and best teachers from different fields to advance understanding of the ethical issues inherent in the functioning of the market society.

The institute's mission is to:

1. Produce high-quality research on matters related to the ethics of markets and the ethical challenges individuals encounter when functioning in the market environment;
2. Develop courses and pedagogical tools to advance the teaching of professional ethics and the exploration of the moral foundations of the market society; and
3. Create externally oriented programs designed to both educate the broader, non-academic community about ethical issues related to the functioning of markets and bring ethical considerations to bear on policy decisions regarding the regulation of markets.

The institute's comprehensive approach to the study of markets and ethics extends beyond the exploration of ethical questions related to business people functioning in the organizational setting to include issues surrounding law and law enforcement policy and the pressures of conducting business in a political environment with rules that are subject to change.

Headquartered in Georgetown's McDonough School of Business, the institute's fellows are drawn from all the divisions of Georgetown University, and its projects are designed to bring insight from business ethics, law, political science, public policy, and economics to the ethical issues endemic to the market society.

For more information, visit us at gisme.georgetown.edu.