

Spring 2020

Dear Reader,

It is with great honor and pride that I present to you Issue VII of *Dianoia: The Undergraduate Philosophy Journal of Boston College*! This year we received more than 140 submissions from North and South America, Europe, the Middle East, Australia and Asia—testifying to *Dianoia's* genuinely international appeal in attracting the finest undergraduate philosophical works from over sixty academic institutions. But before writing further about what makes this issue of *Dianoia* unique, I would be remiss if I did not first praise the tenacity and dedication of our editorial board in making the fruit of this year's labor possible amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Publishing a journal as committed to philosophical excellence, original scholarship and intercontinental collaboration poses no easy task, virus aside, so it is nothing short of a miracle that our team managed to carry on with Issue VII while simultaneously adjusting to the disruptiveness of a global pandemic; if anything, it demonstrates the astounding resiliency of *Dianoia's* editors, and the following issue speaks for itself.

This year, our journal received the privilege to publish five wonderfully insightful and thoughtful essays on a wide range of original topics and ideas, some of which include: Aristotelian virtue ethics, epistemic injustice and artificial intelligence, Sartrean existentialism, Arendt and environmental ethics, and Heidegger on technology and the work of art. In the interest of philosophically engaging with COVID-19—a feat still quite rare in the early days of the virus—*Dianoia* is pleased to present an interview with the Joseph Chair in Catholic Philosophy and current Chair of the Department of Philosophy at Boston College, Dermot Moran, speaking on the pandemic and its assorted effects on everyday life. As a final note, you will find on the front cover Nicolae Grigorescu's *Andreescu à Barbizon* (1879) and on the back cover Isaac Whitehead's *In Milford Sound, West Coast, New Zealand* (1878). When combined, Grigorescu and Whitehead's masterpieces illustrate a picture of the magnificence of crude nature and the necessity of reconsidering the ethics of consumption—a theme called to mind by one of this year's essays entitled: "Human (and) Nature: Using Arendt to Reconcile Models of Environmental Ethics."

In light of all of these new developments, *Dianoia's* resolve in fostering intellectual debate and dialogue remains preserved once more; that being said, none of these accomplishments would have been possible without the extensive base that comprise the journal's friends, patrons and advisors. First and foremost, I would like to thank my executive editorial board—who I am lucky to consider as much as friends as fellow collaborators—Ethan Yates, Weitao Liu, Lauren White and Nicholas Arozarena, and our phenomenally-resourceful and dedicated Graduate Advisor, Peter Klapes, who helped make my transition from managing-editor to Editor-in-Chief smooth and

---

worry-free. I extend a heartfelt thanks to our faculty advisor, Fr. Ronald Tacelli, S.J., for his steadfast support and continual encouragement from the journal's inception in 2011 to its current form. We also are greatly indebted to the Boston College Philosophy Department—particularly the efforts of its Chair, Dermot Moran, both for his sagacious advice and his resounding alacrity in agreeing to an interview with our journal—as well as the Institute for the Liberal Arts and its Director Mary Crane, for their financial and legal support. Department administrators Paula Perry and Sarah Smith deserve a great word of thanks for their help in scheduling meeting spaces for the journal, and also for their essential expertise and unwavering advocacy on the journal's behalf. Lastly, I would like to thank the wonderful efforts of our multi-talented graphic designer Gregory Kacergis, without whom the present work would be impossible; or at least, not nearly the aesthetical masterpiece that it is today (we wish him all the best professionally and cannot express how much his presence will be missed). We also thank here the countless others whose work have made *Dianoia* what it is over the years, and you the reader, for your invaluable support and patronage of our journal. We wish you, your families and friends, health and safety as we continue the fight against COVID-19, and look forward to seeing you again in Issue VIII.

All the best and happy reading!

Sincerely,



Noah Valdez, Editor-in-Chief