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EDITORIAL

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I am honoured to present you the twelfth issue of the Journal of Intercultural Management and Ethics (JIME) marking the end of the third year of JIME.

The issues of the third year presented outstanding articles from various areas of science having in common the nexus between culture and ethics in different socio-economic domains. These issues emphasized the cross-disciplinary vocation of the journal and the positioning towards the cross-cultural areas of society and to the ethical dilemmas.

This year we had also three special issues. The first two were dedicated to papers from the 14th National Conference of Bioethics, Iasi, Romania, 2019, including papers related to culture and pandemics, edited by Beatrice Ioan, and Huib Wursten. The third was “Culture and Innovation” edited by Huib Wursten. Special thanks to the two special editors for their great work and for their support during this year. Next year (2021), we will have other three special issues. The first two are edited by Beatrice Ioan and are dedicated to papers presented in the 15th National Conference of Bioethics, Iasi, Romania, 2020. The other special issues will be on “Culture and Art” and “Culture and Identity”, edited by Huib Wursten.

The current issue includes interesting papers from various fields and from many countries, portraying the diversity of the research community and the cross-disciplinary approach of this journal.

Paulo Finuras asks himself whether national culture can be also associated with national happiness. It is expected that there will be some influential relationship between the dimensions of national cultures and the results of perceived happiness in each country. This is what the author tried to understand by researching and studying the relationship between national cultural dimensions proposed by Hofstede Model and the results of happiness worldwide using the 2019 WHR statistics and the measures of cultural values in the database from Hofstede Insights.

Matt Kammer-Kerwick, Kara Takasaki, Bruce Kellison, Gregory P. Pogue, and Arthur B. Markman explore the implication of a neighbourhood model for interfirm interactions that explicitly tries to create an equality matching relationship among firms in an industry. The aim of their paper is to examine what would happen if these firms worked to gain trust with each other with an eye toward maximizing the value of the collaboration across projects rather than just maximizing revenues in individual projects. As envisioned in their study, the hub is a concentrated, inter-organizational structure for supply chain participants in large, complex projects. Importantly, hub members engage in a variety of technical activities that infuse ongoing and future projects with innovation, scope optimization, and operational efficiencies.

Thomas D. Zweifel highlights that the Covid-19 pandemic has forced businesses, governments and other organizations around the world to work through virtual teams, home offices, and remote management. His article suggests that telecommuting and telepresence make the ability to stand in the shoes of the other side not merely a nice-to-have diplomatic skill, but an essential strategic competence. It also offers a systematic methodology for decoding culture—understanding the value system of colleagues, customers and even competitors or enemies—in order to meet objectives effectively across silos and borders.

Slawomir Magala shows that a spectre is haunting Europe, the spectre of populism. All the forces of the globalized multinational corporations have united against it and all the

forces of the European bureaucracy in Brussels complain about it in world media. Populists are supposed to close open minds and to lock open societies down. Populists are accused of orchestrating Brexit. Top EU functionaries wash their hands. Poland modernizes the courts and reduces stalinist caste privileges. Populists are accused of winning elections there. The author considers that top EU officials blame the modernizers and fight to preserve stalinist rules of judicial games. The questions of the article are: “Is Brusselian bureaucracy an embodiment of meritocracy?”, Of democracy?”. The author’s answer is: “Not really, we see more bureaucracy and pecking order games than democracy in EU top institutions”.

Anton Carpinski believes that we live in a society of generalized and manipulative spectacle. However, repeated and prolonged exposure to misinformation and manipulation favors the occurrence of the phenomenon of the captive mind. Using the method of therapeutic self-reflexivity, his article proposes a different approach: personalized exploration of the phenomenon of the captive mind and, implicitly, its reception as a syndrome at individual and collective level (the involved observer approach). The author considers that only the breaking of the vicious circle of the complicity of the captive mind with the voluntary servitude and the society of the generalized and manipulative spectacle could allow the glimpse of the horizons beyond the captive mind.

Hershey Friedman reveals that a crucial pedagogical tool of the Talmud, one of the most influential books of Late Antiquity, is the use of divine reward and punishment as a way to promote ethical conduct. His paper examines ten behaviors whose reward, according to the sages, is wealth. These include being charitable, conducting business in an ethical manner, honoring the Sabbath, respecting one’s spouse, acquiring wisdom, being an honest public servant, and leading a simple, humble life.

Iulian Warter and Liviu Warter show that the impact of racist ideologies has been devastating to humanity.. Tolerance is arguably important in itself: it enables people to lead the lives they want without social and legal disapprobation, which brings about happiness. Nevertheless, tolerance is also related to economic outcomes. Their paper is based on World Values Survey. There are four main questions: Would not like to have as neighbors: People of a different race, Would not like to have as neighbors: Immigrants/foreign workers, Would not like to have as neighbors: People of a different religion, Would not like to have as neighbors: People who speak a different language. The employed survey shows that in Romania there is a certain percentage of the population that are intolerant towards people of a different race, immigrants/foreign workers, people of a different religion, and people who speak a different language.

Arielle Rosinski and Philippe Rosinski reveal that failing to assume personal responsibility while expecting others to carry the burden of changing our lives for us, is a common problem. The authors ask to what extent are we free to choose our actions and are we really responsible for them. They contend that the main problem is not that Sartre challenges us to be responsible but rather that he does not provide us with the means to discern psychological obstacles and to overcome them to liberate ourselves. The paper highlights that coaches can often recognize their coachees (and maybe even themselves) participating in the type of psychological games dramatized in No Exit where individuals play shifting roles between persecutor, victim and rescuer.

Ciprian Bradu and Silviu Petre expand the concept of Ecomeny. The motivation underpinning such endeavour aims to craft an economic concept suited for the challenges of the XXI century. Thus, the two authors strive to analyse what is called the Economy of Communion model and whether this may have praxeological application. Not without prior similar endeavours, the Economy of Communion exists for about 25 years and has succeeded in improving the condition for millions around the world. The authors believe that such economic model may represent a <third way>” between individualistic capitalism and

collectivism communism”. Their article argues the Ecomeny, as the authors see it, has the potential to enter into a fruitful dialogue with other research programs and contribute to a more equitable capitalism.

I am confident that you will value the articles in this issue of the Journal.

Finally yet importantly, I would like to express my gratitude to all my friends and colleagues who contributed to this journal and to wish you all Happy Holidays and A Happy New Year!