

## From the Editor

**Richard Haynes**

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The current number has four articles and four book reviews. The first two articles address the question of sustainable development. In the first article, Marta G. Rivera-Ferre questions the assumption that export-oriented aquaculture and agriculture, in a framework of liberalization policies, facilitates economic growth and is associated with poverty reduction and the improvement of food security. In her article, “Can Export-oriented aquaculture in developing countries be sustainable and promote sustainable development? The shrimp case,” Rivera-Ferre uses shrimp aquaculture oriented towards export to show the negative effects of this industry on local populations and the environment.

The second article could be thought of as a sequel to the article by Peter J. Li, “Exponential Growth, Animal Welfare, Environmental and Food Safety Impact: The Case of China’s Livestock Production,” published in the previous issue. In the current issue, He Mao and Chen Juan raise the question as to why Chinese corporations do not assume their corporate environmental responsibility (CER) to mitigate the environmental pollution caused by the rapid economic growth that China is experiencing. In “Sustainable Development and Corporate Environmental Responsibility: Evidence from Chinese Corporations,” the authors first examine the various current theories about what motivates (or should motivate) corporations to exercise their responsibility to avoid environmental pollution. Then they argue that because of the tremendous pressure on corporations, they must adopt a competitive strategy of cost cutting that makes them limited in resources, such as money, employees, information, or added value, making it difficult for them to comply with their environmental responsibility. Therefore, the Chinese government has a heavy duty to help corporations respond to their CER.

In the third article, Nina E. Cohen, Frans W. A. Brom, and Elsbeth N. Stassen use the case of resistance to the culling of healthy animals in an animal disease epidemic to present and defend the theoretical framework of an empirical model to describe people’s fundamental moral attitudes (FMAs) to animals, the stratification of FMAs in society and the role of FMAs in making judgments about the morality of the recent culling practice. In “Fundamental moral attitudes to animals and their role in judgment: An empirical model to

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describe fundamental moral attitudes to animals and their role in judgment on the culling of healthy animals during an animal disease epidemic,” the authors use the case of resistance to the culling of healthy animals in an animal disease epidemic to “present and defend the theoretical framework of an empirical model to describe people’s fundamental moral attitudes (FMAs) to animals, the stratification of FMAs in society and the role of FMAs” in making judgments about, for example, the culling practice. To do this they use philosophical animal ethics theories to understand the moral basis of FMA convictions, theories that also provide a moral language for “communication between animal ethics, FMAs and public debate.”

The fourth article (“Convergence of culture, ecology, and ethics: management of feral swamp buffalo in northern Australia”) is by Glenn Albrecht, Clive R. McMahon, David M. J. S. Bowman, and Corey J. A. Bradshaw. The authors examine the identity of Asian swamp buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) from different value orientations. They use “historical documents, literature review, field observations, interviews with key informants, and interaction with the Indigenous land owners” to gain an understanding of the diverse views on the scientific, cultural, and economic significance of buffalo. They conclude that although “the diverse stakeholders in buffalo exploitation and management have historically delivered divergent value orientations on the nature of the human-buffalo relationship,... over time there is the possibility of values and ethical convergence. Such convergence is possible via transdisciplinary and transcultural agreement on the value stances that constitute the construction of the being or identity of buffalo in the face of the overwhelming need to manage population density and gross numbers.”

## Book Reviews

We invite the readers to suggest topics for discussion articles that review multiple books and also to suggest books that you think we ought to review. If anyone wants to review a book that we have not listed, please let us know and we will try to acquire the book for you to review. Contact our book review editor, Dr. Anna Peterson <alp@religion.ufl.edu>