Introduction

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This special issue is devoted to a selection of papers presented at the 2nd Annual Chapel Hill Normativity Workshop, which took place on March 15–17, 2019, on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill campus. Each year, the Workshop aims to provide a forum for stimulating and constructive exchange among philosophers currently working on issues concerning normativity, broadly construed to include: the traditional questions of metaethics; theories of reasons, rationality, and reasoning; the semantics and pragmatics of normative language; the psychology of normative judgment; and the nature of epistemic normativity.

For our 2019 Workshop, we had a remarkable 219 submissions. The current issue is comprised of six of the papers that were selected and presented the Workshop, by Vera Flocke, Chelsea Rosenthal, Mark Schroeder, Kurt Sylvan, Eyal Tal, and Jonathan Way. Together, these papers cover a broad range of topics in the philosophy of normativity, many of which are currently receiving a flurry of attention. Flocke’s paper engages with current debates concerning conceptual engineering, offering a new account of what speakers do when they “engineer concepts”; Rosenthal’s paper contributes to the growing literature on how to navigate moral uncertainty; Schroeder’s paper explores and compares two central motivations for the popular “reasons-first” approach to normativity; Sylvan’s paper engages questions concerning the normativity of rationality, providing a novel account of how there could be normative reasons to be rational; Tal’s paper contributes to debates concerning the normative significance of higher-order evidence; and Way’s paper introduces and addresses a puzzle concerning how enkratic reasoning can be good reasoning.

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