

FOREWORD

Personalist Studies is a creative and innovative special series designed to create and promote interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary dialogue. Instead of remaining within the confines of one subject specialism, the special series actively engages in issues which cut across a wide range of philosophical areas, interests, and concerns.

The call to personhood is the primary challenge of life in the twenty-first century. The challenge to place persons at the heart of all our thinking and living must not be ignored. Now, more than ever, an imperative is at work to explore what it means to be and to become persons in the context of our social, cultural, national, and international relationships. The increasing complexity of daily living, and the rapidly changing scientific and technological revolutions which form the horizons within which such a life is lived, leave little time for a sense of the personal.

To be hoped for is a new type of thinking which emerges from ancient roots—a personalist philosophy—which recognizes the uniqueness of human beings, the fostering of a more humane approach to life, and the need to make sure that our reflections and our conversations are not carried out in the isolating confines of academic life, and in a language only the elite can understand. We must ensure that discussions of the issues which surround persons are open to anyone who wants to join them, and that the implications and consequences which follow from them, have real, practical, outcomes and effects. Personalist Studies aims to provide a forum for such conversations.

Robert N. Fisher