Political Leadership and the Social Value of Privacy

Candidates for political office undergo close and even crushing public scrutiny of their personal lives by the press and by their political adversaries. Philosophers such as Thomas Nagel have argued that the political process scares off good candidates and becomes immersed in irrelevancies when it obliterates the distinction between the public and the personal. But by paying attention to the private lives of politicians, the electorate may acquire information it deems relevant to public issues, and there are reasons to believe that it is right.

Terry L. Price

Libertarianism and Pollution

Libertarians are strong defenders of the rights of person and property against trespass or invasion. Taken to its logical conclusion, the libertarian position would insist on the elimination of pollution since it involves the invasion of one person -- through effluents or emissions -- on another. Yet to eliminate all pollution would be to bring the economy to a screeching halt. Libertarians have struggled with the question of how much pollution should be thought acceptable and why.

Matt Zwolinski

Some Scalar Issues in Climate Ethics

The intensifying processes of globalization have forced scholars and policy-makers to recognize the limited capacities of nation states and have reanimated interest in cosmopolitanism and in global ethics, that is, the idea that people are directly responsible to each other rather than indirectly through collective agencies such as states. This article describes problems that attend the shift from states to persons as the kinds of agents most suited to respond to climate change. It argues for more philosophical attention to the levels of organization and scales of analysis that make sense in the context of global challenges.

Evan Berry

Defining Scientific Integrity

Because society depends so thoroughly on advances in scientific knowledge, the integrity of scientific research has become of utmost importance. Yet scientific integrity is hard to define. There are many instances where it is breached even when there is no falsification or fabrication of evidence. To pass muster scientific research must meet epistemic standards implicit in the kind of inquiry it is, but a general definition of these standards is elusive.

Jan De Winter