

## Abstracts

*Asbjorn Sonne Nørgaard*  
**Moral in Politics?**

The fact that political behavior can be informed by moral considerations has received scant attention in empirical political science. Although moral motives often are not decisive for political action one should not ignore the possibility that in certain situations, at certain times, and under certain conditions moral can be decisive. On the basis of an explication of moral vis-à-vis other motivations for political behavior and with the aid of conventional methods in political science it is just as easy (or difficult) to study moral in politics as other behavioral determinants. The article suggests one way to clarify different motivations and discusses various research designs in which moral may be a plausible determinant of political behavior.

*Erik Albæk*  
**The Limits of a Liberal Ethics: Homosexuality between moral dilemmas and political considerations.**

The political debate takes places in the tension between liberalism and communitarianism in matters that are typically described as ethical. Danish parliamentary debates about registered domestic partnership and the ban on doctors performing artificial insemination on single and lesbian women are analyzed, and it is shown that Denmark is very liberal, but only to a certain limit. At the rhetorical level and in explaining the behavior of politicians, the study of moral considerations in general and the study of the tension between liberalism and communitarianism in particular contribute to a greater understanding of Danish politics.

*Peter Kurrild-Klitgaard*  
**Politics, Rationality, and the Moral Dilemma**

Moral convictions alone will rarely be sufficient to ensure that political actors will act morally. They are confronted with situations reminiscent of a Hobbesian state-of-nature, i.e. with a "moral dilemma" between what is a rational course of action for each of them as individuals and how they would prefer that others acted towards themselves. If moral behaviour is to be a dominant strategy it will generally presuppose that the individual actor has a significant impact on the outcome of the interaction, and/or that the costs of acting morally are negligible. Moral behaviour is likely to be less prevailing the more the decisions-process makes an asymmetric allocation of benefits and costs possible.

*Tonny Brems Knudsen*  
**The Missing Link! Morality in International Relations**

After 20 years by neorealist and neoliberal dominance, a general analytical framework for the study of morality in International Relations is not readily available. At a minimum, such a framework must satisfy the following conditions: (1) the basic assumptions about international relations as a whole must not exclude the possibility of moral action; (2) the assumptions must allow for the possible materialization of moral concerns in the foreign policy of state actors; (3) it must pay due attention to how moral action is shaped by the institutional and structural realities at the international level. The article attempts to develop such an analytical framework on the basis of the ideas of the English school in International Relations. Having applied the

framework to the humanitarian intervention in northern Iraq in 1991, I conclude that a moral foreign policy can come about as a consequence of a massive public pressure, and that the revival of humanitarian intervention in the 1990's was made possible by a development in and reinterpretation of international rules, procedures and institutions, the original rationale of which was the concern for international order.

*Hanne Charlotte Nielsen og  
Vibeke Lehmann Nielsen*

**All Enterprises are Equal, but the Public Enterprises are More Equal than Others**

On the basis of rational new-institutionalism the article analyses the interaction between different kinds of regulators and public and private regulated producers. Still more often the interaction is accused of treating private producers unfairly. The analysis shows that the asymmetry of power between the actors has created a set of social institutions due to which public producers are treated more gently than private producers.